Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-119 *19 June 1996*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: Arab League Chief Says Iraq's Absence From Summit 'Hurts' All *[MENA]* 1

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Affairs: Islamic-Christian Conference Stresses Arabism of Jerusalem *[Beirut Radio]* .. 1
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 4 June 1
Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 7 Jun 3
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 11 Jun 5

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Quray' Sees 'Declaration of War' in Israeli Government *[Jerusalem TV]* 6
Palestinian Affairs: PA Presidency Aide Hails Convening of Arab Summit *[London AL-HAYAH 18 Jun]* 6
Palestinian Affairs: Summit Urged To Reply to Netanyahu's Policy Statement *[Jericho VOP]* 7
Palestinian Affairs: Legislative Council Member on Condition of Territories *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Jun]* 8
Palestinian Affairs: Hamas' Zahar—'Temporary' Cease-Fire May Last 2 Years *[AL-AHRAM WEEKLY 13 Jun]* 9
Palestinian Affairs: Hanan 'Ashrawi Sworn In as Higher Education Minister *[Jericho VOP]* .. 10
Palestinian Affairs: 'Secret' Palestinian-Hizballah Talks Held 'Last Week' *[AL-MAJD 17 Jun]* 10
Palestinian Affairs: Al-Husayni Returns From 'Successful' Gulf Tour *[Jericho VOP]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Algeria: Visiting Iraqi Foreign Minister Gives News Conference *[INA]* 12
Algeria: FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter *[Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT 11 Jun]* 13

Egypt

Egypt: Musa Reacts to Israeli Prime Minister's Statement *[MENA]* 15
Egypt: 'Diplomatic Source' Reacts to Israeli Government Statement *[Cairo Radio]* 15
Egypt: Netanyahu's Statement Shows Violation of Peace Principles *[Cairo Radio]* 15
Egypt: Paper Says Netanyahu's Program 'Deals a Blow' to Peace *[MENA]* 16
Egypt: AFP Reports Egyptian, Syrian, Saudi Ministers Hold 'Secret' Talks 16
Egypt: Musa Satisfied With 'Level of Participation' in Summit *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Egypt: Official Comments on Summit, Arab Position *[MENA]* 17
Egypt: Writer on Arab Summit, Netanyahu Platform *[AL-MUSAWWAR 14 Jun]* 17
Egypt: Writer Reacts to Jordan Press on Iraq's Inclusion in Summit *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 12 Jun]* 19
Egypt: Envoy Says Turkey Will Do Nothing To Harm Arab Interests *[Cairo Radio]* 19
Egypt: Column Sees Israel Interfering in Turkish Internal Affairs *[AL-AHRAM 14 Jun]* 20
Egypt: Interior Minister Orders Release of AL-SHA'B Chief Editor *[MENA]* 20
Egypt: 2 'Terrorists' Killed in Battle With Security Forces *[AL-MUSAWWAR 14 Jun]* 20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Bahrain: 13 Homemade Bombs Said Found in Stores *[AFP]* 22

Bahrain: Court Sentences Several for 'Rioting,' 'Vandalism' *[Al-Ayyam WWW]* 22
Bahrain: Jordan's al-Kabariti Warns Against Exploiting Cairo Summit *[Al-Ayyam WWW]* 22

Kuwait

Kuwait: Foreign Minister—'Sea of Blood' Separates Kuwait From Iraq *[KUNA]* 23
Kuwait: Iran's Civil Aviation Chief Visits To Implement Air Accord *[IRNA]* 23

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: King Fahd Expresses Hope for Arab Summit, Peace Process *[SPA]* 24
Saudi Arabia: Patriot Missiles Added to Air Defense Forces *[SPA]* 24

United Arab Emirates

UAE: Federal Council 'Unanimously' Amends Constitution *[WAKH]* 24

IRAQ

Iraq: UNSCOM Chairman Rolf Ekeus Arrives for Talks With Officials *[INA]* 25
Iraq: Paper—UN Missions Now Involve 'Question of Dignity' *[INA]* 25
Iraq: Saddam Presides Over Armed Forces General Command Meeting *[INA]* 25
Iraq: Security Measures, Escape of Officer to North Reported *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 25
Iraq: Paper on Turkish 'Violation' of 'Territorial Integrity' *[INA]* 26
Iraq: Daily on Ramadan Meeting With Jordanian Political Figures *[AL-BILAD 19 Jun]* 26
Iraq: Jordanian Delegation Departs After Visit *[INA]* 27
Iraq: Iran's 'Plotting' Against Bahrain via Hizballah Assailed *[AL-THAWRAH 6 Jun]* 27
Iraq: SAIRI Leader on Opposition Groups' Agreement on Meeting *[IRNA]* 28

ISRAEL

Israel: Netanyahu Presents New Government *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Israel: Peres Reacts to Netanyahu Knesset Speech *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Israel: Netanyahu Presents Foreign Minister, Announces New Ministry *[Jerusalem TV]* 35
Israel: Levi Named New Foreign Minister; Sharon 'Crisis' Not Settled *[Jerusalm Radio]* 35
Israel: IDF To Obtain 'Greater Freedom' To Operate Against Terrorists *[MA'ARIV 19 Jun]* 36
Israel: Egyptian Envoy Welcomes Netanyahu on Land-for-Peace Basis *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 36
Israel: Netanyahu Government Platform 'Clerical,' 'Isolationist' *[HA'ARETZ 18 Jun]* 36
Israel: Curfew Imposed on West Bank Village After Policeman Killed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Israel: 350 Palestinians To Receive 'Preferential' Entry Permits *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Israel: Peres Decides To Return 3 VIP Cards, Grant Dozens More *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37

JORDAN

Jordan: King Husayn Expects 'Heated' Arab Summit, Views Israeli Election *[Amman Radio]* 38
Jordan: Muslim Brotherhood Urges Syria, Turkey To End 'Tension' *[AL-DUSTUR 19 Jun]* 38

Lebanon

Lebanon: Defense Minister on New Israeli Government, Conspiracy *[MENA]* 40
Lebanon: Al-Jumayyil on Outcome of Tripartite Meeting *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Jun]* 40

SYRIA

Syria: Press Says Netanyahu Platform 'Real Coup' Against Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Syria: Netanyahu Program Termed 'Open War' Against Peace Process *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Syria Expects Israeli 'Escalation' To Separate Tracks *[London AL-HAYAH 18 Jun]* 43

Syria: Press Warns of 'Serious Consequences' of New Israeli Policy *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Syria: Syrian Ambassador to Iran Reacts to Israel-Turkey Pact *[IRNA]* 44
Syria: Army Buildup on Jordan, Turkey Borders Viewed *[AL-BILAD 19 Jun]* 45

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Dostam's Jonbesh-e Meli Against Fighting Kabul Regime *[Message of Freedom]* 47
Afghanistan: Islamic Union Leader Meets With Iranian Official *[IRNA]* 47
Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Group Condemns U.S. Senator's Invitation *[Tehran International]* ... 47

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Chief Adviser Holds Talks With 'Arafat *[Dhaka Radio]* 47
Bangladesh: 'Last' 3 Senior Officers in Failed Coup Forced To Retire *[AFP]* 47
Bangladesh: 13 Ministers of Former BNP Government Lose Elections *[DAINIK INQILAB 13 Jun]* 48

India

India: Fate of Western Hostages in Kashmir 'Uncertain' *[Islamabad TV]* 49
India: Maoists Use Rockets in Attacks on Bihar Police Stations *[AFP]* 49
India Gains ASEAN Regional Forum Membership, Needs Agenda *[THE HINDU 15 Jun]* 49
India: Rao's Relative Arrested for Involvement in Urea Scam *[Delhi Radio]* 51

Iran

Iran: Daily Commentary Belittles Clinton Over U.S. Sanctions *[IRAN NEWS 15 Jun]* 51
Iran: Envoy to Bonn on EU-U.S. Policies *[RESALAT 12 Jun]* 52
Iran: German Firms 'Unperturbed' by U.S. Sanctions *[IRNA]* 54
Iran: Editorial Views Lack of European Support for U.S. Policies *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 15 Jun]* 55
Iran: Bahraini Dissident on Anti-Iranian Propaganda *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 11 Jun]* 56
Iran: Daily—'Washington's Guillotine' Sharpened for Afghanistan *[AKHBAR 13 Jun]* 56
Iran: Inaugural Afghan 'Balkh Air' Flight Arrives in Mashhad *[IRNA]* 57
Iran: Commentary Calls For End of State of Emergency in Algeria *[Tehran International]* 57
Iran: Khamene'i Addresses Majles Deputies *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Iran: Governing Boards of 3 Majles Commissions Elected *[IRNA]* 60
Iran: Majles Deputy on Need for Administrative Reform *[RESALAT 11 Jun]* 61
Iran: Change in Attitudes Toward Elections Urged *[SALAM 11 Jun]* 61
Iran: Fatemeh Hashemi on Importance on IUMWN Meeting in Tehran *[IRAN NEWS 13 Jun]* 62
Iran: Iranian Managers Said More Law Abiding *[TEHRAN TIMES 13 Jun]* 62
Iran: Head of Judiciary Calls For Islamic Universities *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Iran: Daily Calls For Further Islamization of Universities *[IRNA]* 63
Iran: Article Views Islamicization of Universities *[IRAN NEWS 13 Jun]* 63
Iran: Majles Deputy Discusses Religious Violence *[SALAM 11 Jun]* 64
Iran: Repair of Petrochemical Complex Saves $6 Million *[Tehran TV]* 64
Iran: Editorial on Alleged Violations of Press Laws *[SALAM 12 Jun]* 65

Pakistan

Pakistan: Prime Minister Discusses Newly Presented Budget *[THE NATION 14 Jun]* 65
Pakistan: Commerce, Industry Chambers Call Budget 'Unacceptable' *[DAWN 15 Jun]* 66
Pakistan: Foreign Minister on Kashmir, India, CTBT, Afghanistan *[THE NEWS 18 Jun]* 68
Pakistan: Envoy to India Briefs Foreign Ministry on Developments *[THE FRONTIER POST 18 Jun]* 69

Pakistan: Article Views CTBT Talks, India's Stand *[DAWN 15 Jun]* 69
Pakistan: Official Refutes U.S. Envoy's 'Force Majeure' Comments *[THE NEWS 18 Jun]* 71
Pakistan: Chief Justices Committee Relieves 21 Judges From Duty *[THE MUSLIM 17 Jun]* .. 71
Pakistan: Nawaz Sharif Preparing 'Fresh Protest' Against Government *[THE NEWS 18 Jun]* . 72

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Colombo Views Extension of Ban on LTTE by India *[Colombo Radio]* 73
Sri Lanka: LTTE Dispatch Details Offensive in Amparai, Trincomalee *[(Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW]* 73

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: Arab League Chief Says Iraq's Absence From Summit 'Hurts' All

NC1906102396 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has affirmed that the upcoming Arab summit is not directed against anyone. Its objective is to clarify the Arab viewpoints and stances.

In an interview with the weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR in its issue for Friday, 21 June, 'Abd-al-Majid said: We reject peace for peace and will not accept anything less than land for peace. Israel must understand it cannot do us a favor with peace alone and that when we sit at the negotiating table, we are equal.

On the absence of some Arab leaders and heads of state from the summit, 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that all countries are taking part officially, with the exception of Iraq, and that changes in the level of representation do not change the commitment of all countries to the decisions passed by the summit.

The Arab League secretary general said that Iraq's absence hurts us all, but there are emergency circumstances and situations that impose this absence. The three Arab leaders of the Damascus summit decided that this was in the national interest of Arabs, so that the summit does not turn into a fight where all sorts of quarrels erupt.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Affairs: Islamic-Christian Conference Stresses Arabism of Jerusalem

NC1506200796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An Islamic-Christian conference on Jerusalem, held under the slogan Muslims and Christians United for Jerusalem, ended its meetings in the Bristol Hotel tonight with a final statement called Jerusalem's Call. The statement says Israel's crimes against Islamic and Christian sanctity and against the rights of Arab citizens in the holy city would not have been committed had it not been for the support and cover provided by various forces and countries. The statement calls on these forces to stop supporting the aggression and not to help Israel implement its settlement, Judaization, and displacement schemes in Jerusalem.

The statement says the resolution of the issue of Jerusalem lies in restoring Arab sovereignty over the city and re-linking it with Palestine. It adds: No power has the right to Judaize, internationalize, or remove the Arab Islamic-Christian character of Jerusalem.

Participants in the conference expressed deep concern that foreign interests could impose a situation under which the Palestinian people will be deprived of establishing their independent state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital, and Israel will not withdraw completely from southern Lebanon and the Syrian Golan Heights. They called on Muslims and Christians worldwide to support the legitimate Palestinian rights and to make the liberation of Jerusalem their main preoccupation.

The final statement says: We, Christians and Muslims, do not recognize any foreign representation or diplomatic mission in Israel taking Jerusalem as its base, and view such a thing as a hostile act against the Arabs — Muslims and Christians.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 4 June

NC1406122596

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 4 June edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Joint Committee for Dialogue Between al-Azhar, Vatican
2. Editor Praises Dialogue Between al-Azhar, Vatican
3. Awqaf Minister Interviewed on Difference With al-Azhar
4. Columnist Denounces Criticism of al-Azhar Imam
5. Columnist Questions Netanyahu's Commitment to Peace
6. Article Says Netanyahu Cannot Go Back on Peace

JOINT COMMITTEE FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN AL-AZHAR, VATICAN

A 2,000-word report by Musa Hal on pages 1 and 3 gives an account of a meeting between al-Azhar Grand Imam Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi and a delegation from the Vatican in the shaykh's office on Saturday, 1 June, as part of "a series of meetings...which underlined the need to establish a dialogue to protect mankind from injustice." The Muslim side in the meetings "denounced the murder of the seven monks in Algeria, affirming that terrorism has nothing to do with Islam," the report says.

At a meeting with the Vatican delegation, Shaykh Tantawi stressed that Muslims believe in "freedom of religion" and welcome "dialogue among the heavenly religions—Islam, Christianity, and Judaism" to protect

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people's rights and establish cooperation for the good of mankind.

Tantawi said, however, that this dialogue "would be doomed" if it sought to establish who is right and who is wrong. He further explained that "we do not want to embarrass others or engage in a dialogue concerning beliefs." He suggested that a "liaison committee" be established between al-Azhar and the Vatican "to serve virtue, spread justice, and support those who are being subjected to injustice."

The members of the Vatican delegation agreed that a dialogue "should seek to establish ties among the various religions instead of turning into an argument."

Affirming that Islam is against killing, Tantawi stressed that men of religion "should defend all the prophets against insults" by people like Salman Rushdie.

EDITOR PRAISES DIALOGUE BETWEEN AL-AZHAR, VATICAN

In his 400-word column "In Truth I Speak," on page 1, Chairman of the Board of 'AQUDATI Samir Rajab finds it "a good thing" that al-Azhar and the Vatican are exchanging cordial phrases and expressing a definite desire to cooperate in consolidating values and virtues in the hearts of Muslims and Christians.

He praises al-Azhar's grand imam for his open-minded approach and stresses the need for all Muslims and Christians to deal with each other in "a pure spirit" and exchange knowledge.

AWQAF MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON DIFFERENCES WITH AL-AZHAR

Pages 8 and 9 feature a 4,000-word interview with Awqaf Minister Dr. Mahmud Hamdi Zaqzuq by al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf and Muhammad al-Abnudi. Dr. Zaqzuq replies to a question on a "rumored crises among the bodies working in the field of preaching." He says that "there is a group of people who seek to cause confusion and fabricate a certain situation through the al-Azhar 'Ulema Front, which has been revived." He adds that this front was established under the chairmanship of former al-Azhar University President Dr. al-Sa'di Farhud to render services to 'ulema. "However, a group of persons played a certain game in the previous elections, dismissed Dr. Farhud, and took over the front. They started to issue statements under the name of al-Azhar 'ulema, claiming to be the defenders of al-Azhar. They even wanted to restrict the freedom of the al-Azhar imam...they issued a statement opposing the al-Azhar imam's visit to the Lions club, claiming that the al-Azhar shaykh represents no one but himself," Zaqzuq says.

Zaqzuq adds that he refused to give them space in al-Azhar or al-Nur mosque to use as their headquarters so they attacked him in the London-based Arabic press, claiming that he is "preventing the al-Azhar shaykh and scholars from preaching" in the awqaf-affiliated mosques. He further explains that "some mosques and prayer rooms were being used by extremists to preach things that conflict with God's words," and that this prompted him to suggest an amendment to the law governing the use of awqaf mosques to protect them against misuse.

Touching on new restrictions on mosque licenses, he explains that the amendments sought to involve the Awqaf Ministry in license granting "to guarantee that the mosque observes the necessary specifications".

Refuting an accusation that he is "liquidating preachers who have independent views," Dr. Zaqzuq explains that Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Shahin, who was preaching at one of the mosques affiliated with the Ministry, was replaced by someone "who is equally efficient." He adds that Dr. Shahin was not employed by the Awqaf Ministry and that "he was only hosted" by it. He asks how he could be restrained from appointing whoever he wants to the mosques that are under his control.

Dr. Zaqzuq stresses that "mosque rostrums" should not be used to slander any particular person or be used for certain purposes. "They should be used for the pure preaching that Prophet Muhammad urged," he says.

In the remaining part of the interview, the awqaf minister touches on changes in the performance of his ministry, the distribution of alms, the lands under the ministry's management, the distribution of the housing units the ministry builds, and other issues.

COLUMNIST DENOUNCES CRITICISM OF AL-AZHAR IMAM

In his 500-word article in his "In All Frankness" column on page 6, Basyuni al-Halwani writes that he might "disagree" with the al-Azhar imam on some matters or have reservations on his "recent meeting with the ladies at the Lions Club". However, he adds, we have to agree that the grand imam's status makes it incumbent on us all to respect him, hold him in esteem, listen to him, and act on his advice and directives.

The writer rejects attempts to hurt the imam's position or criticize his acts. He refers here to statements by the al-Azhar 'Ulema Front, which criticized the imam, and the Islamic Associations and Organizations Council in Jordan, which "constituted a clear and direct insult to the al-Azhar shaykh and all the scholars of that institution."

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Addressing al-Azhar scholars, the front, and all the thinkers who might disagree with the grand imam "to think carefully before they entangle al-Azhar's name in imaginary battles to preoccupy Muslims inside and outside Egypt with fragile and trivial issues, deepen the differences among Muslims, or give the enemies of Islam a chance to spread their poisons."

COLUMNIST QUESTIONS NETANYAHU'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE

Majdi Salim's 500-word article in his "God Is Gracious" column on page 10 discusses Netanyahu's election win, stating that he was "not at all surprised that Binyamin Netanyahu won the Israeli prime ministership or that the extremist right won the Knesset elections." He explains that "Israel can only be governed by extremists" since extremism has always marked the conduct of the Jews, "even with God's prophets."

Salim believes it is "wrong to think that it is possible to negotiate with Netanyahu in the same way we negotiated with Peres" or that Netanyahu could sign an agreement with al-Asad like that Begin signed with al-Sadat. He adds that Israeli military power has "multiplied" while the Arab powers "have fallen into discord."

He also asserts that America "will continue to be captive to Israeli policy" and that if the peace process continues, it will impose "new Israeli conditions."

He believes that America will "focus its pressure on the Arabs to achieve the peace Israel wants."

Asking what the Arabs will do, he replies that Egypt has already started to lead the march toward "a firm confrontation with Netanyahu's extremism." He hopes the call for a united Arab stance at a summit meeting will be the right start.

ARTICLE SAYS NETANYAHU CANNOT GO BACK ON PEACE

Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl's 700-word article on page 21 is entitled; "Will Netanyahu Carry Out His Extremist Promises?"

The writer begins by affirming that Netanyahu's win does not mean that the peace process will stop "simply because peace in the Middle East enjoys top priority in the American and Western policy."

To prove his point, Abu-al-Hawl says that Netanyahu "did not repeat any of his hardline views in the speech he delivered on Sunday at a ceremony announcing his victory."

The writer adds that Netanyahu knows that the world at large will not allow him to halt the peace process. Moreover, he cannot go back on what his predecessors offered, since Israel cannot launch another war to retake the lands it has evacuated, he says. He notes also that a renewal of hostilities would revive the campaign by Hamas and Jihad.

Abu-al-Hawl adds that Netanyahu knows that there can be no peace without Syria, which accepts nothing less than all of the Golan.

The writer concludes that Netanyahu is "obliged to pursue the peace policy to the end." He has no room to maneuver, except when it comes to the size of concessions he has to make, he adds, saying he expects the new Israeli government to pursue a more flexible line in a short while. He also believes that Netanyahu's ideas will change once he takes over actual responsibility.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 7 Jun

NC1406164796

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 7 June edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Opposition figures Reject New Draft Press Law
2. Labor Party Plans March To Protest U.S. Pressure, Israel
3. Minister's Son Seizes State-owned Land
4. Selling Public Sector Companies Rejected
5. Writers Comment on Netanyahu's Win
6. Writer Berates Arab Silence on Qana
7. Reporter Rehashes Speeches at Istanbul Habitat Conference

OPPOSITION FIGURES REJECT NEW DRAFT PRESS LAW

A 700-word report on pages 1 and 8 by Qutb al-'Arabi and Ashraf Khalil says that overwhelming anger is sweeping journalists and scholars. There are calls for urgent efforts by everyone to defend freedom of the press. Numerous leading journalists have called for a continuous meeting of the General Assembly of the Pressmen Syndicate to confront "the plot" being concocted against journalists by the corrupt, who seek to have a press law passed without taking into consideration journalists views. The report notes that the People's Assembly Information and Culture Committee and the Constitutional Committee have approved in principle the draft press law at a meeting yesterday. A prominent journalist is cited as saying that holding chief editors accountable for what is published in their newspapers is intended "to confront the Islamic Press." Other sources say that

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this clause is intended against AL-SHA'B chief editor in particular.

A 1,000-word report on page 2 by Qutb al-'Arabi notes that on 10 June a year has passed since the "suspicious" press law was passed. He says that the people must know that this law is not only intended to inhibit journalists, but everyone who wants to express his views freely. He says that this law is designed "to muzzle" journalists so as to protect "the clique of corruption, treason, killing, and injustice." Noting a clause in the law that provides for sentencing anyone who defames a foreign head of state for at least three years, he says thus this law forbids any Egyptian to call President Clinton or Netanyahu names. He writes Netanyahu in two syllables in Arabic "Natin Yahu," natin meaning stinky.

LABOR PARTY PLANS MARCH TO PROTEST U.S. PRESSURE, ISRAEL

A 150-word report on pages 1 and 8 notes that Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri continues his contacts with political parties and public figures to prepare for a massive, peaceful march to express the Egyptian people's rejection of mounting Zionist arrogance following the Israeli elections. Shukri told AL-SHA'B that the march is a popular expression of the Egyptian people's rejection of U.S. pressure on Egypt and the Arab countries.

MINISTER'S SON SEIZES STATE-OWNED LAND

A report covering all of page 3 by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad discusses in detail the seizure of a large tract of state-owned land on the Cairo-Ismailia highway by the interior minister's son 'Ala al-Alfi, along with other family members, senior police officers, governors, and others. He notes that they easily obtained loans and credits to buy the land, at a fraction of its real price, to establish al-Qadisiyah Company for agricultural and housing projects. He stresses that exploitation of official posts for personal profit conflicts with the Constitution.

SELLING PUBLIC SECTOR COMPANIES REJECTED

A 2,000-word report by Khalid Yunus on page 4 reports on a court hearing on 4 June, filed by the opposition parties, on the selling of public sector companies. He says that the hearing turned into a "trial" of the ruling regime. He notes that the opposition and trade union leaders stressed that selling the public sector threatens national independence and endangers Egypt's security. Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri and his deputy Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad are cited as saying that the opposition leaders stressed their rejection of the move to Prime Minister Kamal al-Janzuri. Shukri says that the public sector companies are sold at the cheapest of prices. Murad wonders if it is admissible to empower the public business sector minister to assess the value of these companies and supervise their sale. He notes what government newspapers wrote about thefts and corruption in the selling process. Law professor Muhammad 'Asfur stresses that the prime minister's decision to sell public sector companies is "null and void and illegal."

A 2,000-word account on the same theme by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Mun'im on the same page views Finance Minister Dr. Muhy-al-Din al-Gharib's statement a few days ago that the government will use the proceeds from selling the public sector companies to repay debts. He contends that so according to this statement the goal of selling the companies is not to reform these companies and increase production, but to repay government debts. He lists the companies that have been sold and the prices obtained. He cites experts who warn that the government must not sell productive establishments. Dr. Hisham Hasabu, who worked as adviser to the minister of the public business sector, says that the proceeds were used in reforming the structure of some stumbling companies and the rest was deposited in the state treasury. He advises using the funds in promoting education to qualify youths for future jobs that require highly-trained men, and in investment projects to create jobs for the unemployed. Other experts give their views on the best way to use these proceeds.

WRITERS COMMENT ON NETANYAHU'S WIN

In an approximately 4,000-word article under the headline "Indications from the Israeli elections: Seditions and Civil Wars Are Expected And Imminent" on page 5, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn maintains that the Israeli Labor Party and the Likud are both committed to Zionist goals. He argues that the Likud, under Menahem Begin, realized that withdrawal from Sinai in return for "isolating Egypt from the Arab-Zionist conflict was a totally worthwhile deal." He says that both the Likud and Labor Party seek to impose capitulation on the Arabs by force. The only difference is that the Likud wants to attain this goal without withdrawal from any Arab land. He then discusses the mounting Israeli popular opposition to Yitzhaq Rabin's policy and the hostile stands by various Likud leaders and Israelis for his reconciliation with the Palestinians and withdrawal from parts of the West Bank, which ended in his assassination. He argues that the Likud Bloc is more stubborn than the Labor Party and may "defy the World and the United States to impose its views." He says concern about the Likud's victory is legitimate, because it now controls Israel's nuclear arsenal. He says that the

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situation is "extremely serious" and our leaders must not wager on Netanyahu's backing down. Netanyahu's statements were not merely meant for electioneering, he says. Netanyahu is not an individual and is not free in his moves, because he is a "captive of the political process" that brought him to power. He says that he does not view the Likud's win with panic nor does he deplore the Israeli Labor Party's era. He says: We rejected the captulationist agreements and the plan to Isolate Egypt. He notes that the Arabs wagered on a partial Israeli withdrawal by an Israeli Labor-led government "to save face." He says now the Likud rejects even this partial and humiliating withdrawal, and asks the Arab leaders what they are going to do given this situation.

In a 1,800 word-article under the Headline "Here We Are, Netanyahu" on page 8, Muhammad Isma'il says that the new Zionist leader has won the elections under the motto "no to returning Jerusalem, no to the Palestinian Authority, and no to returning the Golan." He notes that Netanyahu also pledged to build more settlements. He says that Netanyahu is challenging our feelings and wants a war. I tell him, we accept the challenge and are ready for the fight. He says that Muslim youths everywhere in the Islamic world are ready to detonate themselves and sacrifice their lives for Jerusalem and to liberate the land. Every believer would rather die than accept "Netanyahu's lie about peace." He says if Netanyahu returns the land without war, he is welcome. But if not, we welcome death on Jerusalem soil. He notes that while Netanyahu won the elections under religious slogans and led by extremists, we open jails to what we call Muslim extremists and try them before military courts.

WRITER BERATES ARAB SILENCE ON QANA

In a 1,200-word article under the headline: "Confrontation or the Deluge" on page 9, Dr. Hilmi Muhammad al-Qa'ud discusses operation Grapes of Wrath against Lebanon. He says the crime was launched by Peres, which proves that there are no doves in Israel. The talk about hawks and doves is merely a farce to deceive the naive Arabs, who totally capitulated to the Jewish will. He says that peace in the Jewish view is "the peace of slaves." He claims that the United States, "leader of the crusaders world" blessed the Zionist massacre and prevented the Security Council from passing any resolution referring to the Qana massacre. The United States then played the role of mediator in the conflict. He maintains that the Arab capitals kept silent about the massacre and the Arab foreign ministers conference failed to make any worthwhile resolution. He noted that all that the Arabs did after the massacre is to voice their concern about the dangers to the peace process. Yasir 'Arafat, he says, "rewarded" the Jews by canceling the Palestinian charter at a time when he persists in "uprooting Islam" from the West Bank and Gaza and arresting the leaders of Hamas, Islamic Resistance Movement, and the Islamic Jihad. He then urges Egypt to put its house in order and says that it is no longer possible to trust the crusader West, particularly the United States. He says that establishment of peace the Jewish way in return for the uprooting of Islam is impossible and unacceptable.

REPORTER REHASHES SPEECHES AT ISTANBUL HABITAT CONFERENCE

A 5,000-word dispatch from Istanbul, covering all of page 10, by Muhammad al-Quddusi rehashes the statements made by the participants at the Habitat Conference on Islamic affairs and causes in their respective countries.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 11 Jun

NC1706170996

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 11 June edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

Contents:

1. Paper Reports on Islamic-Christian Conference on Jerusalem
2. Human Rights Committee Meets in Cairo on 25 Jun
3. Ulemas, Intellectuals Affirm Cairo Summit Step To Unite Arabs
4. Editorial Lauds Christian-Muslim Meeting in Beirut
5. Column Says Netanyahu Victory 'Favor' to Arabs

PAPER REPORTS ON ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE ON JERUSALEM

Page 1 carries a short 30-word report on the Islamic-Christian summit in Beirut to discuss Jerusalem. The report says the meetings start on Friday 14 June in Beirut and that Mustafa al-Shak'ah will be participating, representing Grand Imam Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, and Coptic Pope Shanudah.

Page 20 publishes a detailed dispatch on the meeting from Beirut by Nabil Najib Salamah. The report notes that over 100 Christian and Muslim figures from the Middle East and the Arab World will be taking part in the meeting. The dispatch says that the objective of the conference is to "address a strong message to the whole world and its political and spiritual leaders, which underlines that Arab Muslims and Christians are united on their stance regarding the future of Jerusalem.

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in order to defend its plurality and unique character." The dispatch cites statements by Dr. Riyad Jarjur, the secretary general of the Middle East Council of Churches.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETS IN CAIRO ON 25 JUN

A 20-word report on page 2 reports that the Human Rights Committee will hold a meeting in Cairo on 25 June at the World Islamic Council for Call and Relief [WICCR] in order to reach a decision on the members and head of the committee and set its charter. A statement by an official from the WICCR said that the Council will work for Islamic minorities and to highlight human rights in Islam. It will also respond to suspicions raised by the West about human rights in Islam.

ULEMAS, INTELLECTUALS AFFIRM CAIRO SUMMIT STEP TO UNITE ARABS

Page 3 carries a 500-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi, Mustafa Yasin, and Musa Hal on the opinion of ulemas and intellectuals regarding the upcoming Arab summit in Cairo on 22 June. The report notes that the ulemas and intellectuals praised the results of the Damascus summit and affirmed that the upcoming Cairo summit is the first step toward uniting the Arabs and retrieving their usurped rights. Among the ulemas and intellectuals cited is Grand Imam Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi who "clarified that the Arabs are expecting a great deal from this summit in order to restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

EDITORIAL LAUDS CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM MEETING IN BEIRUT

'AQIDATI's 400-word editorial on page 3 comments on the Christian-Muslim meeting on Jerusalem in Beirut. The editorial notes that the Arabs, Muslims and Christians alike, have for some time been in dire need of this summit in order to rescue the holy places in Jerusalem. The whole world is awaiting a united stand to confront any person who even thinks about attacking the religious places and to block the road before extremists.

COLUMN SAYS NETANYAHU VICTORY 'FAVOR' TO ARABS

Basyuni al-Halawani's 500-word "In All Frankness" column on page 6 is entitled "Thank You Netanyahu". He notes that by electing Netanyahu, the Israelis have done the Arabs a favor, because the Arab leaders will be meeting in Cairo to discuss future strategies and policies. He highlights the point that if the Arabs unite their stances and speak with one voice, they can do a lot to counter U.S. support for Israel and demand respect from other world countries. He concludes: "The hopes pinned on the Cairo summit are great, and the Muslims and Arabs are expecting decisive, effective, and implimentable decisions which will have influence on the regional and international levels."

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Quray' Sees 'Declaration of War' in Israeli Government

TA1806180296 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The basic guidelines of the Netanyahu government are a declaration of war, Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], chairman of the Palestinian Authority [PA] council, stated today in Gaza. If the Likud expands the settlements, he said, this will be the end of the peace process.

[Begin Abu-'Ala' recording, in English] The guideline of the government is unacceptable. It's a declaration of war, that's right. It wants to kill the peace process, he wants to kill the agreements; all of it, all of it. First of all, he doesn't mention anything about the Oslo agreement, nothing about the Oslo agreement. It doesn't speak nothing about the implementation of the agreements. We have agreements, we have Oslo 1, we have the economic agreement, we have the Oslo 2 agreement. He has not talked about the implementation of the agreement. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 18 June carries a report by Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a about the Palestinian reaction to Netanyahu's speech upon the presentation of the government: "A few minutes ago we heard the reaction of Furayh Abu-Middayn, the PA's justice minister, who said: Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu today presented a government of rabbis and generals which proves that Israel still considers itself to be in a state of war with the neighboring Arab countries."]

Palestinian Affairs: PA Presidency Aide Hails Convening of Arab Summit

MM1806150696 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jun 96 p 5

[Interview with al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Authority's Presidency, by Husayn Hijazi in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hijazi] You do not conceal your satisfaction with the convening of the Arab summit, and it seems you are pinning your hopes on it after the unpleasant coup in Israel. Does the Arab summit mean a countercoup?

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['Abd-al-Rahim] The Arab summit is a good start for the return of Arab solidarity after the Gulf crisis. Certainly, the mere convening of the Arab summit will represent support for the Palestinian issue and the two other tracks, the Syrian and the Lebanese. The summit will urge Israel to fulfill its pledges and comply with the commitments signed by the outgoing Israeli Government.

[Hijazi] But how can you translate that support?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Through the clear message the summit is going to send to the world and Israel to the effect that the Arab world has the ability to work and is united in its support for the Palestinian issue, just as it is united in its support for peace. But the peace must be for two parties, not one party. The basis of this peace is the resolution of the Palestinian issue, which is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, that is, the land-for-peace, not the peace- for-peace, principle.

[Hijazi] There is talk within the new Likud government circles about a new Madrid conference.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Those people want to move backward. The stage has transcended the Madrid conference phase. When they talk about that, the objective is to avoid facing the truth. There are signed agreements. There is also a clear course set by the peace process. The road we have started must be completed. This is the way to judge their commitment to the peace process.

[Hijazi] But there is also talk in the Arab camp about the need to be patient and to wait to see what Netanyahu is going to say. You might hear these voices at the Arab summit!

['Abd-al-Rahim] The summit will not issue threats to anyone. All we are interested in is stressing and clarifying our fixed principles to everyone. Israel must take this matter seriously if it wants peace and coexistence in this region. The land-for-peace principle is the equation. But if they think they can exchange peace for peace — that is, peace for nothing — they are deluding themselves. They have to choose between coexistence and tension or conflict. There are two theories in Israel: the first says that security is achieved through occupation, settlement, and aggression; the second says security is achieved through peace and coexistence. They have to choose between the two.

[Hijazi] So can we say that the early fears expressed after the Likud's victory in the elections have now diminished due to the current coherence in the Arab position? Do you feel more assured now?

['Abd-al-Rahim] First of all, I do not agree with the phrase fear, because fear means alarm, and we are not alarmed at all. There is a difference between being alarmed and being vigilant and alert to confront the recent changes. We were the first to call for the convening of an Arab summit, namely through the speech delivered by President Yasir 'Arafat on the occasion of the inauguration of the Palestinian Legislative Council last March. We believe the response to this appeal by the good people in this nation reflects the feeling of collective alertness in the Arab world. Because it is unreasonable to remain silent when an extremist right-wing government emerges in Israel and ignores a crucial peace process. Certainly, no one is fearful, because the Arabs have free will, and the summit is an embodiment of this will.

[Hijazi] But that will must be translated into actions.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Yes, there must be mechanisms to maintain the momentum of and develop Arab solidarity, whether with regard to coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace process or following up [the implementation of] the resolutions with the parties concerned at the international level. The summit will devise the ideal way to achieve this aim.

Palestinian Affairs: Summit Urged To Reply to Netanyahu's Policy Statement

JN1806193496 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to the policy statement announced in the Knesset today by the new Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn said the Palestinian people rejected the idea of self-rule a long time ago because it will not achieve Palestinian national goals.

He indicated that the National Authority would negotiate with the Israeli Government to preserve the peace process, asserting that the negotiating table will put Netanyahu's government to the true test, although the Palestinian side is very familiar with the new government's extremism and the nature of its members.

In a statement to Jericho Voice of Palestine this evening, Abu-Middayn urged the Israeli Government to meet its obligations by implementing the accords—particularly the agreements on safe crossing, withdrawing from Hebron, and releasing the prisoners—to clear the way for the final-status negotiations.

Abu-Middayn urged the upcoming Arab summit to reply to the Netanyahu government's policy statement, which indicates a departure from the peace process. He added that the Arab summit should sound the alarm to the

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Arab world by asserting that Israel will remain against peace and the Arab nation unless the Palestine question is resolved as an Arab cause. He also said Israel is trying to jump to the Arab world, bypassing the Palestinian people and their just cause. This, he said, will pose a political, economic, and strategic threat to the Arab nation.

Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn asserted that the Palestinians will place the issue before the Arab leaders after it has met all its obligations toward peace, pointing out that the final-status negotiations cannot take place without Arab support. He also said that Palestinian-Arab relations will remain a sacred and strategic objective.

Palestinian Affairs: Legislative Council Member on Condition of Territories

MM1706151596 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 96 p 6

[Unattributed report: "'Abd-al-Shafi: The Democratic Option, Not Violence, Is the Palestinians' Way To Utilize Energies and Affirm Their Steps on the Ground"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, the Media Services Center — In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Palestinian Legislative Council [PC] member Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the poor living conditions, unemployment, and the Israeli-imposed closure of the Palestinian territories which has paralyzed trade, the source of income for the majority of Palestinian workforce, contravene human rights and represent a form of collective punishment which has also hampered political action. 'Abd-al-Shafi, a former leader of the Palestinian negotiating team, added that the Israeli political position contravenes and violates the peace and UN Resolution 242, and consequently the situation as a whole is very bad.

Commenting on living conditions and their implications, Dr. Haydar said that "before Likud's return to power thanks to the victory of its leader, Binyamin Netanyahu, foreigners and local people were hesitant about and refrained from investing in the Gaza Strip because the situation was uncertain, and because capital requires reasonable legal guarantees and simplified procedures, which are not available now." He added: "Two issues need to be resolved in order to overcome the crisis. First, Israel should put an end to the current practices of closure and of impeding movement between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The second issue concerns the Palestinian Authority [PA's] performance in general, by providing either the right or the internal administrative conditions needed for trade, export, and import, and all the usual problems that go with them."

Dr. Haydar talked about the tension among the inhabitants and the possibility that there might be an outburst, saying that "this is a danger that we fear. We in the PC are very busy discussing it, along with the violations taking place, with the executive power. We are aware of the seriousness of the situation and we do not want matters to reach the point where there will be an outburst, because this would be bad for everyone. It would be a tragedy if matters were to reach that stage."

On the possibility that there may be a resurgence of acts of violence and Palestinian military operations, he said: "I hope this will not happen and that we will not suffer from violence, because Israel would exploit the situation, become more intransigent, and make our situation worse. One should not undertake unilateral actions. We must all examine our situation carefully in order to define the option required. In my view, the only option available is to achieve democracy in Palestinian society and examine our issues from a democratic perspective. This is the only way we will be able to use our energies and affirm our steps on the ground, and until we achieve that, there are no other options. I am against being hasty and against resorting to acts of violence."

On whether the Palestinian people, in view of their current situation, can carry the banner of the democracy which he advocates, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: "First, the PA should be a model of democracy in the performance of its three organs, the executive, the legislative, and the judiciary, and in its internal dealings. It would be a tragedy if people were afraid to express their views. Our task, in the PC, is to express our views. We hope it does not take very long to affirm the principles of democracy and provide the model required, so that people can be reassured and confidently put forth their case. This is how we can start to achieve progress." Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi went on to talk about his apprehensions regarding the peace process following Netanyahu's victory and said: "Peace was, and still is, in danger. This has been the case since the occupation took place in 1967. Before that, it was nonexistent. After the Madrid conference, it was hoped the peace process would lead to peace, but, from the start, because of Israel's lack of commitment and failure to provide what is needed for peace, and because it continues to hold on to the land and continues to build settlements, thus contravening international law, it has been a faltering process. The talk about peace being under serious threat following the elections is untrue. The danger existed before, because of Israel's practices and failure to comply."

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Palestinian Affairs: Hamas' Zahar—'Temporary' Cease-Fire May Last 2 Years

NC1806135896 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 13 Jun p 5

[Interview with Hamas Spokesman Mahmud Zahhar by Graham Usher in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Usher] In the last period, relations between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the PNA [Palestinian National Authority] have been very bad, with the PNA security forces arresting hundreds of Hamas supporters. Some people say 'Arafat got tough with Hamas at Israel's bidding so as to help Peres get re-elected. Since Peres and Labour lost the elections, do you think the prospects for a PNA-Hamas reconciliation are better or worse?

[Zahhar] We hope they will be better. Our advice is that the PNA should depend on neither Peres nor Netanyahu. It should depend on the Palestinian people, for this will bring unity between us. But relations could get worse. There are elements in the PNA's security forces who are urging greater repression of Hamas. They argue that any military operation will consolidate Netanyahu's position and undermine international pressure on him. This debate inside the PNA between the advocates of reconciliation and the advocates of more repression is not yet settled. Of course, Hamas encourages the reconciliation trend.

[Usher] When-you refer to the PNA' security forces, with whom does Hamas have the worst relations? Are they those forces made up of PLO figures recently returned from exile? Or those recruited from inside the occupied territories?

[Zahhar] All of them are on the wrong path, regardless of whether they are from here or returnees. They are one system, implementing one policy, albeit in different ways.

The most dangerous thing about this policy is that it creates conditions for the fragmentation of the Islamic movement, in which individuals or groups start to act independently, under the banner of revenge. In such circumstances, revenge may be taken against officials of the PNA. This is Hamas' greatest fear, for we have seen the consequences of such fragmentation and violence in Egypt and Algeria.

But, due to PNA repression, the soil is fertile for such ideas. This is why Hamas is trying to build a movement behind a policy of reconciliation. From the moment the PNA arrived, Hamas has stated that it is forbidden for any Palestinian to attack a PNA official. We have never issued a fatwa calling for the death of a PNA official solely because he holds a different opinion to us over how to solve the Palestinian question.

But it is difficult to maintain this attitude so long as the PNA kills our people or tortures our prisoners in its jails. Such actions themselves provide a fatwa, a license for extremism. We have warned the PNA about this. So Hamas is now striving to establish reconciliation as the main idea governing our relations with the PNA. In Gaza, I think we have succeeded. In the West Bank, I hope we shall succeed. In this way, we can remove this poison of confrontation between Palestinians and unify our ranks against the real enemy—Likud.

[Usher] Apart from reconciliation with the PNA, what are Hamas' priorities in the next period? How will it view Likud?

[Zahhar] From the beginning of the occupation, we understood the struggle to be multifaceted. In the early years, the emphasis was on the social side. During the intifadah, the political and military sides came to the fore.

In this period, I think the emphasis should be on economic and social reconstruction. We understand that Hamas' military actions will not deliver Palestine to the land of Islam, nor bring an independent Palestinian state, nor prevent a Palestinian state. But we cannot tolerate a situation where Israel or its collaborators can kill with impunity Palestinians from Hamas or Jihad or 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam or the PNA. The suicide attacks that followed Israel's assassination of Yahŷa 'Ayyash were pure revenge. Not to have responded would have been disastrous for Hamas.

As for Netanyahu, our demands are the same as they were for Rabin and Peres. If Israel wants peace, it should release all Palestinian prisoners. If Israel seeks even a temporary ceasefire, it should the remove the cancer of settlements in our areas, allow Palestinians to move freely between the West Bank and Gaza, and lift the closure of our borders. In short, no peace, no ceasefire, with pressure.

[Usher] Is Hamas observing a ceasefire at the moment?

[Zahhar] Yes. I personally called for a suspension of military operations for the duration of the Israeli elections. We knew Peres would fail in the elections, whether or not there were military actions. So why should Hamas give Peres the pretext that we were somehow the cause of his failure, to allow him to say that we were the ones blocking the Palestinian dream? Till now, there is a temporary ceasefire.

[Usher] If Israel released prisoners and fulfilled the other conditions, how long would a "temporary" ceasefire be?

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[Zahhar] One or two years, subject to negotiations...

[Usher] Would Hamas negotiate with Israel...?

[Zahhar] No. To negotiate directly with Israel would weaken the PNA, which is not our aim. Negotiations should be through a third party, a neutral channel, but in cooperation with the PNA.

Prior to the recent repressions, we would have accepted the PNA as the third party. But how can we regard the PNA as neutral while it holds 1,000 of our people in its jails? If the PNA releases these prisoners, we shall reconsider. But we do not seek to be an alternative to the PNA vis-a-vis negotiations with Israel.

[Usher] When you called for a temporary ceasefire to avoid the accusation that Hamas was interfering in the Israeli elections, Hamas' spokesman in Jordan, Ibrahim Ghawshah, said you were speaking personally, not for Hamas. How deep are the divisions in Hamas?

[Zahhar] There is no division. There are differences due to our different political situations. Gaza is different to the West Bank; the West Bank and Gaza are different to Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. Our leaderships there reflect these differences. There is also a difference between our political leaders and our military cadres.

The political leader must have a wider vision, his assessment must be more accurate. Military actions must always serve political goals—this is true even in wars. Hamas does not undertake military actions for their own sake. Once these actions no longer serve the interests of the Palestinian people, they should cease. So division, no; differences yes—after all, Hamas is a big movement...

[Usher] But which leaderships lead...?

[Zahhar] Hamas was born here, it grew here, and Hamas decides here, in Gaza and the West Bank.

Palestinian Affairs: Hanan 'Ashrawi Sworn In as Higher Education Minister

JN1506065096 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi was sworn in before President Yasir 'Arafat as minister of higher education. The Ministry of Higher Education has been separated from the Ministry of Education.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Secret' Palestinian-Hizballah Talks Held 'Last Week'

JN1706191996 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 17 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Talal Khalidi in Beirut]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD learned that a secret conference was held at one of Hizballah's headquarters in southern Lebanon last week. The conference was attended by leading representatives from six Islamic jihad and Palestinian national movements to discuss the results of the Israeli elections, which brought the right-wing Jewish and Likud parties to power, as well as the possible current and future policies and practices of the Netanyahu government.

The little information that was leaked to AL-MAJD about this conference, which lasted two days and nights, indicates that the rejectionist Islamic and national conferees found the recent Israeli elections to be clear proof that Israel is desisting from coexistence and peace and that the elections attest to the Islamists' argument that the conflict between the Muslims and Jews was, and still is, a religious conflict.

The conferees also agreed on the need to renew the jihad strategy in a way that conforms with the fact that the Israeli extremists have assumed power and with the possible aggressive and retaliatory actions that the Israelis may resort to and that might reshuffle the cards in the region.

AL-MAJD also learned that a subcommittee was entrusted with working out a detailed and final formula of this new strategy. This strategy includes closing the ranks of the jihad and fedayeen movements and coordinating their martyrdom operations, rotating between internal and external operations.

It is expected that qualitative martyrdom operations will be carried out deep inside Israel in the next few weeks and that there may be some temporary calm in the border areas. This calm will focus attention on the operations inside Israel, which are designed not only to intimidate the Israeli public, but also to mobilize the Palestinian people as a prelude to the resumption of the popular intifadah throughout Palestine.

The representatives of the six national and Islamic movements, which AL-MAJD declines to name, agreed to appreciate the Syrian and Lebanese position and welcome the Cairo summit as a gateway to the expected Arab solidarity. The conferees also stressed the need to call for an Islamic summit, because the liberation of Palestine and the holy places is now an Islamic issue, as well as an Arab and Palestinian issue.

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The conferees expressed different views regarding their position on the Palestinian Authority [PA] in view of the Likud's assumption of power in Israel. However, they agreed on the need to exert maximum pressure on the PA to release the mujahidin and strugglers it has been detaining for several months. These mujahidin and strugglers are being subjected to various kinds of repression and torture.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Husayni Returns From 'Successful' Gulf Tour

JN1806144696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, member of the PLO Executive Committee and official in charge of the Jerusalem file, said his Gulf tour was successful both politically and economically. After returning home today, al-Husayni said it was decided to form more working committees in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar in support of Jerusalem. He said an approval was given to establish such committees in Bahrain.

On the economic level, al-Husayni said Gulf investments have been allotted for occupied Jerusalem, in addition to donations to support the existing institutions in the homeland. During his Gulf tour, al-Husayni also discussed the latest developments of the peace process, especially in light of the new Israeli Government's statements against the peace process.

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Algeria

Algeria: Visiting Iraqi Foreign Minister Gives News Conference

JN1806113596 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0850 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers, 18 Jun (INA) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf asserted that the crisis fabricated by the inspection team in Baghdad last week has political objectives and exposes the U.S. Administration's exploitation of the Special Commission.

At a news conference in Algiers last night, al-Sahhaf said the United States is using the Special Commission and forcing it to adopt an unwarranted provocative political approach. Al-Sahhaf added that the issues raised by the inspection teams since the beginning of 1994 have nothing to do with Security Council resolutions on Iraq. These issues are motivated by political purposes, which we will continue to reject, he said.

The foreign minister also spoke about the memorandum of understanding between Iraq and the United Nations, noting that there is a substantial difference between this memorandum and Resolution 986, which Iraq has strongly rejected since it was issued in April 1995. He said this resolution has three clauses that infringe on Iraq's sovereignty. First, it attempts to interfere in the relationship between Iraq and Turkey regarding the formula of exporting oil. Second, it states that the governorates of al-Sulaymaniyah, Dahuk, and Irbil have nothing to do with the rest of Iraq. Third, it cancels the role of the Iraqi banking system in channeling Iraqi funds.

The foreign minister said what will be implemented is the memorandum of understanding, and not the resolution. According to the memorandum of understanding, we have reached a formula with the United Nations that respects Iraq's sovereignty and does not interfere in its internal affairs. Oil will be exported via Turkey according to a bilateral agreement reached between the oil minister and Turkish officials in Ankara. Northern Iraq will be supplied with food, medicine, and other humanitarian needs in accordance with a plan to be drafted by the Iraqi Government. In addition, the Iraqi banking system will be in charge of channeling Iraqi funds, in coordination with the UN secretary general.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf reiterated Iraq's readiness to cooperate with the Special Commission according to the Security Council's rules of action and the text of Resolution 687. He demanded that the commission stick to the tasks assigned to it by the United Nations and to abstain from caving in to the pressure applied by a certain country. He added: We will cooperate with the commission and respond to its inquiries in a technical, accurate, and unbiased manner and on sound bases to close this file and enable the Security Council to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which means lifting the blockade against Iraq entirely.

He noted that the actions of the inspection teams over the past three years have been contradictory and contravene the Security Council's resolution which stipulates that these teams can enter factories and locations where the banned weapons were manufactured. The resolution did not provide for undermining the country's achievements and inspecting the sovereignty-related locations which can be used as a pretext to prolong the blockade for an unlimited period.

The foreign minister said that Iraq presented the Special Commission with the drafts of comprehensive, complete, and final reports concerning all issues related to chemical and biological weapons, missiles, and the Iraqi nuclear program. He said that the commission started sending inspection teams on the pretext of having doubts, instead of studying these extremely lengthy reports which contain full evidence and explanations.

Al-Sahhaf reviewed some of the fabrications contained in the claims of the Special Commission and its inspection teams. He said that these claims include that Iraq, which has been under blockade for six years, still has a network of suppliers abroad providing it with banned materials. He said that these claims also include suspicions that Iraq concealed six to 16 missiles, adding that when we ask for evidence of these allegations we receive none.

The Iraqi foreign minister spoke about a number of important issues, including Arab solidarity and Iraq's relations with neighborly countries. The foreign minister praised Iraq's relations with sisterly Algeria and the results of his current visit. He said: I had the honor of meeting with President Liamine Zeroual. I relayed to his excellency an oral message from his brother, President Saddam Husayn, on bilateral relations and Iraq's view of several Arab and international issues.

The Iraqi foreign minister also noted that he had a series of meetings with the Algerian foreign minister and other ministers on economic, trade, technical, and scientific cooperation. This cooperation has great prospects in the near future and in the long run. The foreign minister commended this level of brotherly cooperation, which stems from deep pan-Arab feelings. He said this level of cooperation was achieved despite the comprehensive blockade against Iraq and the harsh economic conditions experienced by Algeria.

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Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf renewed Iraq's concern about pan-Arab ties. He said: Our position has not changed since the aggression against Iraq. We still support and encourage relations with other Arab countries, based on mutual interests, without preferring one party at the expense of another.

Al-Sahhaf said he is satisfied with cooperation between Iraq and Egypt. He said the relationship between the two fraternal countries will witness further steps to bolster cooperation.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf reiterated Iraq's eagerness to cooperate in closing the file of the missing Kuwaitis. He noted the results the technical tripartite committee achieved with respect to 303 out of the 603 persons Kuwait says are still missing. He said that procedures in this field are time-consuming, noting that the files of missing persons during World War I and II have not been closed yet and that Americans are still contacting the Vietnamese to study the files of the U.S. personnel who were reported missing in action during the Vietnamese war which ended some 20 years ago.

Al-Sahhaf said he regrets that the issue of the missing persons is being exploited to defame Iraq and fuel enmity. He emphasized that humanitarian issues should not be exploited for political purposes. He said that Iraq is eager to reach final results and that it works seriously to settle this issue. He added: We will exert similar efforts to determine the fate of the missing Iraqis. He said that there are twice as many missing Iraqis as there are missing Kuwaitis.

On Iraqi-Iranian relations, the foreign minister said that there is mutual desire for normalization and for making progress. He added: We and the Iranians seek to settle outstanding problems. Al-Sahhaf said that the slow pace of normalization is the result of eight years of aggression against Iraq. However, he affirmed that both sides can overcome all this and that the settlement of problems between two neighbor states is a must.

Algeria: FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS1806133096 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 11 Jun 96

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe"; quotation marks as received; double parentheses denote source's use of brackets — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

The "Algerian Front for the status-quo"!

Praise be to Allah.

In Algeria, the coup d'Etat of January 1992 has facilitated the outburst of groups, organisations, "parties", clans and cliques ready to do everything conceivable and inconceivable to maintain or acquire, the power to rule the Algerian people. A perverted situation was born out of that act and which has boosted "minor actors" to the front scene as the media environment came under strict manipulation. In every sphere of the Algerian scene, be it political or military, "minor actors" tried to confiscate the "levers of command". The "minor actors" have always tried to push aside the main stream of political parties, armed Islamic resistance and within the army itself.

With time, these "minor actors" have only succeeded in pushing Algeria toward the actual deadlocked situation.

Concerning the army itself or rather the clique of Generals in command, revelations are coming to daylight which show that some Generals were and are always applying the OAS principle of "our solution or Algeria will burn". When these Generals in command and who theoretically are responsible for "law and order" are openly ready to provoke a civil war between whole regions in Algeria in order to sabotage any kind of settlement and preserve the status quo, one can make sure that there will be no way out for Algeria with these kind of people in command.

Concerning the political parties who have always encouraged the regime in its policies and which were the first to acknowledge in their acts and participation, the "legitimacy of the "pushiests", they have only fed the arrogance of the regime thinking "it will give us time to strengthen our organisations while the main stream is busy with the confrontation". Their selfish political calculations and their double-talks have contributed greatly to the deadlocked situation. When ever there is nothing optimistic in the horizon, some of them start to talk about the right of those who have won the elections and when there is a smallest light they change their talk by inverting victims with aggressor. They are the defender of the status-quo until they will think they are strong enough. That is why they are in super-hurry to go to the elections. The "dwarfs" are still haunted by the "giants". Now, the hypocrisy cover is lifted, they are openly shouting "dead to the giant". They have accepted to participate in the November elections and much later on are trying to dupe the Algerian people by "whispering" that the elections were not that clean! They think they have developed the art of "pleasing the regime without loosing the people"! One of them talks about the "control of election as a part of a strategy (!??)" (probably meaning that it is OK to ask the people to vote as long as the politicians agree before hand on what score should be made public. This is their "democracy"). Other are

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"whispering" that they were the "real winners of the November elections but General Zeroual took it away from them". They do not dare say it straight. It is part of their "wisdom" not as the "unwise" FIS which "answer back with a fist blow whenever hit with a slap".

Concerning the Armed groups, it took all the damage and all this time for the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] to be completely discredited. Praise be to Allah, all the "Jihadic organisations" everywhere have now declared that the path followed by the leadership of this group has gone far astray from the straight path. May Allah unify the Mujahidin and protect them in the path of His prophet (p.b.u.h) [peace be upon him].

So, these are the principle causes of the actual deadlocked situation. A sound future for Algeria should disregard any advice from the above and counter any of their violent interference.

The General Lamari's clique blocks all promotions!

Observers of the Algerian scene have lately been reporting about what they call "Lamari's clique vendetta" inside the army. Indeed this gang has been behaving as if they were in charge of their own private army. Lt-General Lamari's clique has been reported trying to block the promotion of young superior officers who many of them are graduate of prestigious war schools. The band is also trying to block the reintegration of high ranked officers who were "pushed" to early retirement and have stay clean from the mess ignited by the "pushiests" of the January coup. However, "rumours" in Algeria are stating that Lt-General Lamari and his clique are even holding France in "their hands" by keeping the French community in Algeria as hostage to which a mischief can readily arrive.

Lt General Lamari has lately been making declarations in the name of "all elements of the army" as if his position allows him that. It has been revealed that Lt-General Lamari wanted to capitalise on the dead of his close ally General Fodhil Saidi, by presenting it as some kind of a plot against him personally. Lt General Lamari and his clique do not seem to have been satisfy by the investigation commission set up by prime minister Ouyahyia.

Why Nahnah still support the plan to "destroy" the FIS?

Since the coup d'Etat of January 1992, the military regime has worked and aimed at the "destruction" of the FIS, the winner of the free legislative elections. An anti-FIS alliance was spontaneously formed by heterogenous groups, each one having a particular interest in weakening the FIS and if possible "annihilating" it. This anti-FIS alliance had two principal facets. One centred around an influent clique in the army and secret services and joined by members of the communist party (ex-PAGS) who controls the local press and by advocates of the "de-Islamisation of Algeria" who "ride" on the top of legitimate cultural and social demands to advance their own agenda. The above facet of the anti-FIS alliance had "the merit" of not hiding its objective and its message concerning the FIS has always been clear. It is through "their eyes" and with respect to "their truth" that the West came to "see" the Algerian situation. Many of its members have been in a perpetual touring of Western capitals trying to rally the West public opinion against the FIS and other "Islamists, fundamentalists, terrorists...".

The second facet is composed by those who have secretly been working for the "assassination" of the FIS while presenting a face of supporting its electoral victory and legitimacy. This "double-faced" attitude is imposed by the fact that they do not want to upset those who have the "big guns", insulting the armed resistance if needs be and at the same time trying to capture the FIS electorate and grassroots. The talk about the FIS right has been just for the show or to put "pressure" periodically on the regime to get something for the "speaker" rather then for the "spoken of".

The FIS media in general has always tried to concentrate on what it understands to be the main problem of Algeria, that is the military regime and on this basis it has let many "voices" talk without answering back and Allah Knows that there may be much more talks about their authors' actions than about the regime.

Lately, the followers of Nahnah outside Algeria have launched what it may account for as a media campaign aimed at inventing and/or reinforcing myths detrimental to the FIS and therefore beneficial for their group as it seems that the only objective of their "struggle" is a few "chairs" in this parliament and few "flap-seat" in that government cabinet.

This campaign objectives is to invent the myth of the FIS does not exist any more and that the cause of the Algeria situation is the jailed FIS shuykh who did not have the "wisdom" of Nahnah which application starts by "crawling" in between the "military boots" before grabbing a seat, a chair, a flip-seat, anything that can be used to rise once head. The FIS leadership has always considered that this kind of "wisdom" may nullify its prostrations to Allah because of the filth. The Nahnah followers accuse without mercy the FIS jailed shyukh of "loving to show off" as if they have inspected their "hearts".

This campaign has just followed declarations from Nahnah who has been talking too much about elections

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emphasising on the exclusive participation of "legal parties" and that the law on restricting Islamists parties is a good idea as long as it does not apply to his organisation which "will be inconceivable because it has participated in the management of the "transition period"". Nahnah should not be afraid of the FIS competing with him in an election process under these conditions. The FIS struggle is much higher than all what the regime has proposed so far. As for those who may think that the regime and all its supporters, can get away with taking a clear and free electoral victory by force, they should think again. The real struggle could have just begun.

Without going as far back as the treasons and lies of which Shaykh Mustapha Bouyali (May Allah accept him as Martyr) was victim of from his "brothers in Islam" and Praise be to Allah every detail has been carefully registered for future generations to know, one can just look at the behaviour and actions of Nahnah since the coup d'Etat of January 1992 to have a clear picture.

The FIS media will surely be ready to turn all its "criticising energy" towards those who want to use the FIS as "stairs" to elevate their own position. For that, an exclusive concentration on them is not a problem at all even during a period of "their elections".

Egypt

Egypt: Musa Reacts to Israeli Prime Minister's Statement

NC1806211196 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has responded to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's statement on his government's program. Musa said the statement prompted several questions and did not answer numerous questions. It raised more questions than it answered, he added.

In a statement tonight, Musa said although it contained talk about peace and a desire for good ties with neighboring countries, the statement was also full of no's. Musa added: We do not regard this speech as clarifying Israel's stand. On the contrary, if it did clarify something, it explained nothing but a hard Israeli position. This can only produce negative results for the peace process.

Egypt: 'Diplomatic Source' Reacts to Israeli Government Statement

NC1806181396 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An informed diplomatic source in Cairo has stated that Israel's statements on its refusal to abandon Jerusalem and Golan, on expanding settlements, and other points included in the new government's program can never lead to real peace.

The source said these statements mean there is no need to resume the peace process under such conditions, affirming that the Israeli Government's announcement violates the agreed upon terms of reference for the peace process, including the Madrid formula.

The source added in a statement today, that the Israeli announcement runs counter to the basics of the peace process agreed on between the Arab and Israeli sides in accordance with UN resolutions, particularly resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the land-for-peace principle. The source said that the Israeli statement preempts [Usadir Muqaddaman] the outcome of the peace negotiations.

Egypt: Netanyahu's Statement Shows Violation of Peace Principles

NC1906133696 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 19 Jun 96

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The Cairo Summit, a New Formula for the Arab Future"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo will host an Arab summit in the next few days. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak successfully called for the summit and fixed its venue and date. The summit was the hope of every Arab, after the bitter, painful, and protracted differences that emerged among the brothers following the Gulf war. [passage omitted]

Perhaps the statement delivered by new Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu [on 18 June] and the hardline positions it contained regarding Jerusalem, the Golan, and the settlements proves that Israel's policy entails a clear and flagrant violation of all agreed-upon bases of the peace process, especially those signed in Madrid by, or in presence of, Yitzhaq Shamir, the then Likud leader and former Israeli Prime Minister. This means Israel and its leaders can any time violate their commitments and evade any conventions they sign, international or otherwise.

All these facts will be in front of the Arab leaders. These leaders have to realize that collective action is the only, indispensable way to confront these challenges. They must also realize that the UN and Madrid resolutions,

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which recognized the land-for-peace principle, will not be implemented unless all Arabs adhere to these principles and stress, by words and positions, that the credibility of the so-called new world order and international legitimacy is linked with full commitment to these principles, and that stability and just peace in the Middle East are linked with the vital and economic interests of most world nations, especially the major industrial states, which are commercially and economically connected with the Arab world.

Egypt: Paper Says Netanyahu's Program 'Deals a Blow' to Peace

NC1906061796 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0503 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR expresses regret over Israeli Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu's statements after he declared his new government and its political program. The program contains around nine points directed primarily and specifically against every concept of peace, which the various sides, including Israel and its previous government, the United States, Russia, and the Arab countries have tried hard to achieve.

AL-AKHBAR says in its comment for today that the program's fifth point stipulates that any political agreement with the Palestinians should guarantee keeping and strengthening the Jewish settlements, as well as securing their ties with the State of Israel. It also considers settlement in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights a grand national duty.

The paper stresses that this expression deals a blow to the core of all the declared and undeclared agreements for boosting the peace process.

AL-AKHBAR adds that the program also contains stipulations for continuing Israeli Arab action in south Lebanon under the pretext of eliminating the security threat to residents of northern Israel. As for Jerusalem, the program closes every door on the issue, blatantly contradicting the texts of the peace agreements with the Palestinians and the Israelis. AL-AKHBAR says Netanyahu's program has set the grounds for a hot working agenda for the Cairo summit.

Egypt: AFP Reports Egyptian, Syrian, Saudi Ministers Hold 'Secret' Talks

NC1806141296 Paris AFP in English 1406 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 18 (AFP) - Egyptian, Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers met here Monday [17 June] for secret talks on how to convince more Arab leaders to attend the weekend summit in Cairo, a senior Arab League official told AFP Tuesday.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, together with his Syrian and Saudi counterparts Faruq al-Shar' and Sa'ud al-Faysal, looked at "ways to remedy the absence of several Arab leaders," said the official, who asked to remain anonymous.

"Cairo, Damascus and Riyadh are putting intense pressure on these leaders to convince them to go back on their decision not to attend the summit so that the decisions taken at the meeting will carry greater weight," he added.

He said only the emir of Bahrain out of all the Gulf state leaders would take part personally in the summit, and that King Hassan II of Morocco and Tunisia's head of state would also not be attending.

According to Egypt all 21 Arab countries invited to the summit, called to forge a unified Arab stance against the new right-wing Israeli government on the peace process, have agreed to send a representative to the meeting.

The official said the three-way meeting, held in a hotel in the north of Cairo, also looked at "ways of facing up to the pressure put on some Arab countries by the United States since the announcement of the summit."

"This pressure is aimed at convincing participants not to adopt a hardline Arab stance against new Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu," he added.

The meeting lasted two hours and was held in the utmost secrecy with the Egyptian foreign ministry refusing to confirm or deny its existence.

Arab League deputy secretary general Muwaffaq al-'Allaf also told the press Monday that "the threat represented by Israeli nuclear weapons would be on the summit's agenda."

Egypt: Musa Satisfied With 'Level of Participation' in Summit

NC1806143096 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that President Husni Mubarak will deliver a welcoming speech at the opening of the Arab summit meeting, as Egypt is the host country.

Musa affirmed that the shape and level of participation in the summit is good and satisfying, pointing out that all the arrangements for the summit will be finalized during the ministerial meeting to be held on Friday [20 June] morning among the foreign ministers of the states taking part in the summit.

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Musa added that contacts and consultations with Arab parties will continue until the ministerial meeting is held. He noted that he held consultations today with Jordanian prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti. The foreign minister noted that many states have submitted proposals for the summit agenda and that all the proposals will be submitted to the Arab foreign ministers at their meeting on Friday to finalize the agenda.

'Amr Musa said that the Cairo summit will issue a comprehensive statement at the conclusion of its works on all the resolutions the Arab leaders will take on the issues considered. He added that the foreign ministers will submit the draft final statement to the leaders for discussion and approval.

Egypt: Official Comments on Summit, Arab Position

NC1806204496 Cairo MENA in English 2022 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—Assistant Foreign Minister for International Relations Ambassador Sayyid Qasim al-Masri said that the upcoming Cairo summit is a strong-worded message to Israel and the world at large testifying to the Arabs solidarity.

Al-Masri in statements this evening said the summit dispelled doubts that the Arabs will never meet nor unite. He added that most of the Arab countries will attend the event. The summit is held at a time when the Arab countries are divided, he added. The Arab leaders will discuss ways of rallying the Arab ranks along with the Middle East peace process as a strategic option for both the Arabs and Israel.

He confirmed that peace will never be established as long as the Golan heights is still occupied nor through the prevention of establishing the state of Palestine, for peace does not only mean normalization of relations; it also means removing the psychological barriers and introducing radical changes in thought.

Egypt: Writer on Arab Summit, Netanyahu Platform

NC1706202196 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 14 Jun 96 pp 6-8

[Article by Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "The Cairo Summit — Arabs Are Put to the Test"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] It is not enough for the Cairo summit, due to be held after a long absence, to be a gathering for kissing and hugging. It is not enough for that summit to be convened in order to issue a communique exonerating all parties, after which each country will go back to the seclusion of its own problems and interests without a common plan or a collective concept organizing Arab action, to preserve at least the minimal level of Arab interests.

We want this summit to be a prelude to a new and more mature Arab world, which learns from its past experiences, realizes the magnitude of the challenges facing it, discerns the nature of dangers threatening its fate, and has confidence in its capabilities to handle such circumstances.

We want this summit to be a prelude to subsequent organized summit meetings, as is the case with Africans, Europeans, and Asians. This is not because we want rich Arabs to help poor Arabs, for economic crisis is gripping everyone. It is rather because we are facing difficult problems and sound solutions to such problems to avert their hazards cannot be found by one country alone. It is because we have huge Arab interests, difficult to protect in the absence of Arab solidarity. Also, this is because we deserve a better standing in our current world and we will not attain that position without cohesion and unity, employing the Arabs' resources for the good of the Arab future.

Can a single Arab state on its own, no matter what its resources, handle the threats of terrorism, organized crime, and gangs of soft and hard drug traffickers, without Arab cooperation coordinating everyone's efforts to ward off such dangers? Can any single Arab state alone find for its goods a suitable place in the world market, governed by blocs of large powers, unless this country is part of an economic Arab group, achieving for the Arabs a measure of equality in this raging war?

Can one Arab country alone, with its own policy guarantee, have sound regional ties with neighboring non-Arab countries? Such countries aspire to exporting chaos to our Arab world or seek to court the Western World at the expense of pan-Arab interests.

Now comes a pressing question. Can a single Arab country on its own in light of the current state of affairs—amid this conspiratorial global climate—secure a comprehensive and just peace providing security and stability in the region? This is at a time when the new Likud government asserts its intention to annex the Golan, expand settlement-building, keep Jerusalem out of negotiations, reject the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, dismiss 'Arafat, and attenuate the Palestinian people's hopes down to self-rule in separated cantons surrounded from the outside and penetrated by the Israeli Defense Army whenever it pleases.

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Binyamin Netanyahu has not presented his political program, which is in fact a program of war, not peace, only to satisfy his voters from among the Israeli right who constitute half of Israel's society. He presented this program because he believes, as others do, that the Arabs will eventually have to accept the reality and submit to Israel's blackmail. This is because the Arabs are fragmented and do not have any option, other than waiting for these successive rounds of U.S. and Israeli elections which take place over the years. The Arabs are also waiting for the just and comprehensive peace which, year after year, is being consumed by the policy of stalling, imposing a fait accompli, the U.S. bias, or the U.S. failure to perform its effective role in the peace process.

Had Netanyahu found a united Arab front confronting him, whose various sides coordinated among each other within the framework of a comprehensive view that links progress on all tracks of the negotiations to progress on every track, when the peace march entered this difficult crisis, he would not have had the courage to raise the threshold of his demands to the extent of making a blatant declaration that he is not willing to return the Golan Heights and that he is determined to step up settlement-building in the West Bank because this is an absolute Jewish right.

Unfortunately, the Israelis have managed to draw the Arabs into bilateral negotiations' tracks from which coordination and integration are absent. They managed to raise fears and doubts among the Arab negotiating sides, whose relations among each other have deteriorated to the extent of a covert war between the Palestinians and Jordanians, the Jordanians and the Syrians, and the Syrians and Palestinians. In light of these events, it was only natural for the final outcome to be Arab weakness in general and on all negotiating tracks. This has been augmented by the deliberate neglect of the U.S. partner to perform an effective role, since it is considered the guardian of the legal background on whose basis the negotiating sides accepted the Madrid land-for-peace formula.

We will not cry over spilt milk. The Arabs still have a great opportunity before them to rectify the peace march. They still have many cards up their sleeves that guarantee the success of their efforts to establish a comprehensive and just peace, particularly since the whole world realizes Binyamin Netanyahu's declared program reveals an excessive stupidity that could lead to an escalation of violence, the flames of which could reach the Israelis before any other nation in the region.

There is an opportunity for a frightening clash, the results of which no one can predict, between the Israeli Defense Army, the Palestinian security forces - the 25,000, and the masses of people in the Gaza Strip, if the Israeli army tries to enter Gaza again. I do not believe it will do so. There is also a possibility of more violence in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip if Netanyahu tries to implement his program to expand settlements in Hebron, Jerusalem, and the West Bank, including the small settlements scattered around the West Bank towns until they become a status quo that is difficult to change. I believe the tension prevailing in the areas now, particularly in Hebron, reveals this impending danger. There is a great possibility that the suicide operations will start up again throughout the areas where the Israelis are present inside and outside the occupied territories, amid new circumstances that would make it impossible to stamp the label 'terrorist' on these operations.

Binyamin Netanyahu promised the Israeli people security and the Golan Heights. He pledged he would dwarf 'Arafat's authority and expand the building of settlements. He promised them a peace that is impossible to achieve. Netanyahu also promised the Israeli people a false dream and a security that will never be achieved under the canopy of his expansionist program.

Regrettably, Netanyahu and the Israeli people failed to comprehend the significance of the important message sent by the Palestinian people when they considered the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] operations acts of terrorism and authorized 'Arafat to curb Hamas' organizations and military battalions.

The pressing problem facing the Cairo summit rests on how much success can be achieved by the summit in uprooting the fears and doubts which still dominate the relations of the Arab negotiating teams. How can the summit root out the fears which might continue to dominate the minds of the Palestinians as a result of Netanyahu's continued emphasis on Jordan's role as an alternative to the PLO and on the king's role as a substitute for 'Arafat, despite the clear statement made by King Husayn during the al-'Aqabah summit that Jordan will never be a substitute for the Palestinian people? Consolidating this commitment at the Arab summit will undoubtedly help bolster Palestinian-Jordanian cooperation and thwart Israeli schemes.

How can the heavy legacy of suspicion between Amman and Damascus be curbed? This legacy can open the door for a marginal conflict that would obstruct the peace process and adversely affect the region's security.

How can the Palestinians and Syrians agree to coordinate efforts concerning the ultimate goals of the negotiating tracks while the Syrians are angry with 'Arafat

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because he took them by surprise regarding the Oslo Accords, and also because he declared that the al-Hammah, located at the foot of the Golan, is a Palestinian territory although the negotiations over the fate of the entire Golan have not yet started?

This is the real problem facing the Cairo summit. If the summit succeeds in drawing up a general framework for joint coordination to protect the interests of the four parties—Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese—it will be a good initiative that portends the success of an Arab endeavor to establish a comprehensive and just peace.

It remains to be said that certain regional and international circles do not favor a successful summit in Cairo. They will even try to abort it, contain its results, and prevent the convening of future summits. These parties will use all means, including media intimidation campaigns against Cairo and Riyadh in particular. These press campaigns will be launched by well-known forces with well-known objectives as happened in the past. But it does not matter what these sides want if the Cairo summit succeeds in achieving its goals.

Egypt: Writer Reacts to Jordan Press on Iraq's Inclusion in Summit

NC1806183196 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Jun 96 p 16

[The "Dividing Lines" Column by Samir Rajab]

[FBIS Translated Text] We want to enter the Arab summit with our souls clear of any remnant flaws. We want to enter the summit vowing to Almighty God and our consciences to remain loyal to the nation's causes, to elevate the peoples' opinion, unify the will, and rebuild the edifice of Arab solidarity on strong and new foundations.

Therefore, there is no room for oneupmanship or for attempts to wear the cloak of false heroism, or to hold unbalanced comparisons, especially as regards including Saddam Husayn's Iraq in the summit. There has been agreement to postpone Iraq's participation at this stage, to avert any problems that might expose the conference to serious threats.

I am surprised by the stance of certain Jordanian newspapers, which seek to depict Iraq's non-participation in the Cairo summit as a settling of scores in reaction to Iraq's previous adoption of a campaign to make the Arabs boycott Egypt because Egypt signed the Camp David Accord. Moreover, these newspapers maliciously wonder: Since Egypt has returned to the Arab fold, what prevents Iraq's return?

No doubt this talk is inconsistent with logic, nor is it acceptable by any sane person, because the circumstances and nature of events are different. When it signed the Camp David Accord, Egypt exercised its natural right. Also, Egypt realized, with its advanced thinking, the importance of bringing about peace in the Middle East after it taught Israel a lesson in the 6 October 1973 battle.

As for Saddam Husayn's Iraq, It committed a blatant aggression against the rights of a neighbor and brother, stripping him of his freedom, dignity, honor, and wealth.

There is a vast difference between the two causes. There is a vast difference between people regaining their land and opening the way before the rest of their brothers to achieve the same objective, and an arrogant dictator who brushed aside all laws, documents, and observed rules. So can the two parties be treated equally?

Regrettably, these Jordanian newspapers have implicated themselves in a losing case beforehand, because Arab leaders insist on the need to make the summit a success. Most of the Arab leaders think that the presence of Saddam Husayn at the same table might undermine the conference the moment it opens.

Jordanian colleague journalists: My request to you is that you examine all dimensions and aspects before passing verdicts. My request is that you always bear in mind that swallowing up a brother is a crime whose ramifications cannot be easily forgotten. Still, time will tell; we pray to God that no Arab will be absent from the Arabs' future meetings, God willing.

Egypt: Envoy Says Turkey Will Do Nothing To Harm Arab Interests

NC1706170896 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Turkish ambassador to Egypt has announced that no Turkish Government can adopt measures detrimental to Arab interests. He reiterated earlier statements by Turkish officials that the military agreement signed with Israel is not directed against any Arab country and is similar to agreements that Turkey signed with 11 countries outside this region and agreements that it signed with Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Iran.

The Turkish ambassador welcomed the convening of an Arab summit in Cairo, praising Egypt's and Mubarak's efforts to achieve Arab reconciliation. He said he hopes that the Arab summit, assisted by the Egyptian role, will attain its objective of safeguarding Arab interests.

The Turkish ambassador described relations between the Egyptian and Turkish leaders and people as excellent.

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He said he met with the director of the Arab East Department at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and discussed with him Egyptian-Turkish ties and ways to promote them, particularly in the economic and trade spheres.

Egypt: Column Sees Israel Interfering in Turkish Internal Affairs

NC1806120396 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Jun 96 p 2

[From the "Kaleidoscope" column by Ahmad Bahjat: "A News Item To Contemplate"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman arrived in Turkey bearing a message of friendship from Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. He met his Turkish counterpart, Suleyman Demirel, and stated the importance of the growing economic and military relations between Israel and Turkey. When he arrived at Istanbul Airport he said he considers Turkey to be one of the most important countries for Israel and the region.

Israeli journalists said Weizman told them in the airplane that flew him from Tel Aviv to Istanbul that Demirel is his close friend, that he will do all he can to prevent the Islamic Refah Party from getting to power in Turkey, and that the Turkish Army will not remain quiet about it.

I paused before this strange news. Israel feels concerned and worried that the Refah Party might get to power in Turkey, despite Refah getting the highest percentage of votes in the recent elections in Turkey. Israel is urging its friend Demirel to do all he can to prevent this. It is threatening that the Turkish Army will not allow it. I asked myself: If this is not flagrant interference in the internal affairs of other countries, what is?

After his meeting with Weizman, Turkish Prime Minister Yilmaz asked about the possibility of forming an Islamic government and the effect this would have on the military agreement between Turkey and Israel. He said: Secularism has roots in Turkey and an Islamic government will not come to power. Despite the Israeli state being a liberal and secular state, it was established on a religious basis and the doctrines of the Torah. Without this motive, the Jews could not have been convinced to migrate to the promised land. Why are some things lawful for Israel but prohibited for others? And why does Israel depend on its religion but does not allow others to depend on their religions?

Israel's stance is neither comprehensible nor justifiable. It declares its displeasure and dissatisfaction with the possibility of the Islamic Refah Party getting to power. This is a sign that has far-reaching significance. Will Israel now play the role of policeman of the region tracking down the Muslims and Islamic parties charged with attempting to get to power, even if the process of getting to power is legitimate and takes place through legal channels and voting?

It seems the answer is yes.

Egypt: Interior Minister Orders Release of AL-SHA'B Chief Editor

NC1506170396 Cairo MENA in English 1645 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 15 (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has ordered the release of Journalist Majdi Husayn, editor-in-chief of the (opposition) newspaper AL-SHA'B.

The minister ordered the release of the journalist as soon as he learned that the authorities arrested him to refer him to the prosecution to carry out a judgement passed against him.

A court had ordered Husayn to pay a fine of 15,000 pounds and sentenced him to a suspended imprisonment sentence of one year after he had been found guilty in a case filed against him by the son of the interior minister.

A responsible security source at the Ministry of Interior said that Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi learned this morning that a force of the unit in charge of implementing judgements arrested the journalist.

The minister at once issued a decision to release the journalist provided he makes a commitment to go, by himself, to the prosecution tomorrow morning to undergo legal procedures taken in such cases.

The security source quoted the minister of interior as having said in comment on this decision that the minister of interior is keen to strengthen relations between journalists and media men and the police.

Egypt: 2 'Terrorists' Killed in Battle With Security Forces

NC1706171896 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 14 Jun 96 p 9

[Report by Sayyid Zaki]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two dangerous terrorists have been killed. One was Jamal 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Nasir, who had been a fugitive for four years and was accused in more than 30 terrorist cases of attacks on officers and guards in the hot triangle of Asyut, Suhaj, and al-Minya. The other terrorist killed was Husayn Isma'il Ahmad, who was responsible for contacts between terrorist organizations.

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An exchange of gunfire between the terrorists and the security forces took place yesterday, during a raid on a den near the center of Tima. The battle resulted in the arrest of seven other suspects who participated in several assassination operations that occurred in Upper Egypt five years ago.

Abundant information had become available to the state security agencies on the movements of the military wing leadership of the organization, particularly on Jamal 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Nasir's movements, to form new armed terrorist organizations by recruiting new members from several towns and villages in north Asyut. The new recruits would be commissioned to carry out several assassination attempts on prominent personalities, and political, security, and executive officials. Those new recruits, who are unknown to the security agencies, would be sent on surveillance missions in Greater Cairo to watch the personalities targeted to determine their places of work and commuting routes. The new recruits would also be used to attack the villages and assassinate defectors from the organization.

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Bahrain

Bahrain: 13 Homemade Bombs Said Found in Stores

NC1906063496 Paris AFP in English 2136 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, June 18 (AFP)— A total of 13 home-made bombs were uncovered and defused Tuesday [18 June] by the Bahraini security forces, an informed source said.

The small explosives were mostly hidden in packets of soap and put in supermarkets and shops, the source added.

"All the devices were defused and prevented from exploding," the source, who asked not to be named, told AFP.

A home-made bomb hidden in a car on one of Manama's main streets exploded Monday [17 Jun] evening without causing any casualties.

Bahrain has been hit by a wave of unrest since December 1994 led by Shiite Muslims demanding the restoration of parliament which was suspended by the mainly Sunni Moslem authorities in 1975.

At least 22 people have been killed and many others injured in the violence which has included home-made bombs, firebombings, stabbings and beatings.

Bahrain accused Iran on June 3 of working to topple the government by financing a Shiite militant group called Hizballah-Bahrain. It announced the arrests of militants linked to the alleged plot.

Iran has fiercely denied the charges.

Bahrain: Court Sentences Several for 'Rioting,' 'Vandalism'

JN1906093096 (Internet) Al-Ayyam WWW in Arabic 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Security Court passed sentences in several cases of rioting and vandalism. In one of the cases, nine people were accused of murdering a policeman, possessing unlicensed firearms and ammunition, using force and violence against security men, and demonstrating and burning tires. The court sentenced one of the defendants to 15 years in prison; two other defendants to five years in prison; and five others to three years in prison. The court acquitted one defendant.

In another case, the State Security Court passed different sentences against five other defendants. The first was sentenced to six years in prison; the second and third to five years; the fourth to three years; and the fifth to one year. The court ruled that the first four defendants should also pay 1,950 dinars for the damage they caused by setting fire to the administration offices of the 'Isa City secondary school for boys. The public prosecutor earlier charged the five defendants with vandalism and sedition which disrupted the operations of public facilities and was intended to cause disorder.

Bahrain: Jordan's al-Kabariti Warns Against Exploiting Cairo Summit

JN1906105496 (Internet) Al-Ayyam WWW in Arabic 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti made a statement to Bahrain television and the GULF NEWS AGENCY in which he said he was happy about his Bahrain visit, noting that his talks focused on bilateral relations. Al-Kabariti conveyed to his highness, the Bahraini prime minister, the greetings of His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government and people to Bahrain — amir, government, and people.

Al-Kabariti said: We support the political leadership and people of Bahrain. We believe the forces who target Bahrain's security and stability also target Jordan's security and stability. Any encroachment on Bahrain's independence is also an encroachment on the independence of the Arab nation. Al-Kabariti reiterated Jordan's support for Bahrain under all circumstances.

The Jordanian prime minister said his talks with his highness the prime minister dealt with overall Arab issues, particularly with regard to the agenda of the Arab summit which will be held in Cairo on 22 June. He added that the two sides agreed to strengthen and coordinate efforts between the two countries during the preparatory meetings to be held in Cairo on Friday [21 June].

Al-Kabariti said the two countries have common views on all proposed topics for the agenda of the Cairo summit. Asked about his expectations for the upcoming Arab summit, the Jordanian prime minister said this depends on the stands of the participants in the summit. Al-Kabariti said: If the basic issue is building bridges of confidence, achieving a minimum level of Arab solidarity, and building a unified Arab stand to achieve the sublime objective — namely, unity of pan-Arab security — then the summit will be successful. However, if certain parties attempt to exploit this Arab meeting to adopt stands at the expense of other parties, not taking into consideration the interests and security of each state, the sought Arab stand and unity of the Arab nation will be harmed.

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Regarding the Middle East peace process in light of the Likud's assumption of power in Israel, Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said that the option of peace in the region produced an agreement between Egypt and Israel 17 years ago. This option, he added, experienced jolts and frustrations. The peace process, however, succeeded when Jordan and the Palestinians reached preliminary agreement [with Israel], al-Kabariti said. The Jordanian prime minister said conditions are appropriate now to continue the peace process in the Middle East so that a just and comprehensive peace can be realized. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Kuwait: Foreign Minister—'Sea of Blood' Separates Kuwait From Iraq

LD1906132796 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0853 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 June [KUNA] — A Kuwaiti senior official has said that the Arabs are talking about reconciliation "as if they are talking about a defeat in a football match."

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah said: "As if they [the Arabs] do not know that a sea of blood now separates us from Iraq... and that another sea of hatred separates us from those countries which together supported Iraq in its aggression against us."

He also said that: "They talk about reconciliation as if it was a a fruit which has ripened and is ready to be picked... Unfortunately, they do not talk about the country whose sanctity was violated, institutions plundered and which still suffers from the consequences of the aggression."

Shaykh Sabah's statement came in an interview conducted by the editor of the Bahraini weekly SADA AL-USBU' [ECHO OF THE WEEK] and which was published today with his [the editor's] agreement by [the Kuwaiti daily] AL-ANBA'. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah added: "The Arabs have not experienced what we did at the hands of the Iraqis on 2 August 1990."

The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister defined the preconditions for Arab reconciliation, "among which are an admittance that what happened was a crime against Kuwait and its people; the release of the POWs; and the repatriation of our money and properties as well as payment for the damage inflicted during the occupation and liberation and after."

He said: "The seven months of occupation took us 50 years backwards." He went on to say that the tragedy of the Iraqi invasion and the extensive reconstruction operation for the damage inflicted during the occupation "forced the country to start from scratch in a legend [as received] similar to that of crossing an ocean by swimming."

Referring to Arab calls for reconciliation and accord, Shaykh Sabah said: "Kuwait understands the motives of the Arab brothers when they call for reconciliation and understanding the real Arab reality, which has entered the phase of turning a blind eye, but it does not understand how they can overlook that what happened to the Arab nation was the result of the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait."

He added: "They talk [about reconciliation], as if they were talking about a defeat in a football match and not about a homeland which was assassinated overnight and whose people were killed and displaced ... and hundreds of its POWs are still in Iraqi jails after five years of suffering."

Furthermore, in replying to a question on the march of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said: "It is wise to retain the council despite stumbling in its progress, hoping that things will be more favorable in the future to enter into another formula closer to the thinking and leanings of the Gulf citizen."

Shaykh [words indistinct] (?said that he) "dreams of a united Arab states."

The first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs said that the Arab Gulf states need to do more to correct their foreign relations regionally and internationally.

Regarding Bahrain, he affirmed that Kuwait condemns any aggression against this Gulf state "regardless of its nature."

He said: "We in Kuwait still remember how Bahrain shared with us the bitter taste of the Iraqi invasion." [passage omitted]

Kuwait: Iran's Civil Aviation Chief Visits To Implement Air Accord

LD1706203096 Tehran IRNA in English 2013 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi (UAE), June 17, IRNA — Head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization engineer 'Ali Shahcheraghi arrived in Kuwait on an official visit on Sunday [16 June] at the head of a delegation. During his four-day stay in Kuwait Shahcheraghi is to review with Kuwaiti aviation officials the putting into execution of a new agreement which is to boost two countries' air transportation.

The new agreement was inked last year, during the visit to Iran of director-general of Kuwait civil aviation Shaykh Jabir Mubarak.

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According to the agreement the two sides will operate 12 flights every week between the two countries' airports in order to increase the volume of air trade and the number of passengers between. The flights will cover Iranian cities and provinces which have trade and tourism relations with Kuwait. The visit to Kuwait of Shahcheraghi is taking place upon an invitation from his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Jabir Mubarak.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: King Fahd Expresses Hope for Arab Summit, Peace Process

LD1806143796 Riyadh SPA in English
1227 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Jeddah, Jun 18, SPA — The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has described the Arab summit as an expression of the political desire to have the voice of Arabs, united in solidarity and association, heard by the whole of the world. "The Arab societies are now-a-days undergoing changes which require us to say yes for wise peace and solidarity and to say no for war, separation and disunity as well as to take care of our peoples' ambitions and aspiration for a free decent life in a world witnessing seditions, disorders and riots. [no end quotation as received]

These remarks were made by custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud while presiding over the weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers in Jeddah on Monday [17 June].

King Fahd also reiterated the Kingdom's keenness on the prevalence of truth, justice, welfare and peace throughout the world in implementation of the social and economic development anticipated by the Arab societies to bring them to prosperity and advancement without giving any chance to those trying to disperse the joint Arab effort.

Following the cabinet meeting, Information Minister Dr Fuad al-Farsi told SAUDI PRESS AGENCY that King Fahd had tackled in detail the expectation from the outcome of the urgent Arab summit which will be held in Cairo on June 21. The Saudi monarch expressed hope that the summit shall come out with a unified viewpoint toward the process of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region to oblige the Arab and Israeli parties to adhere to all resolutions and commitments made with regards to the peace process and to embody the good-will for continuation of the process upto its end.

The king, then, reviewed the latest developments at the regional, Arab, Islamic and international levels and pointed out to the Saudi position towards these developments as well as the Kingdom's keenness on the realization of security, peace and stability which the international society is aspiring. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: Patriot Missiles Added to Air Defense Forces

LD1906140896 Riyadh SPA in English
1239 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, June 19, SPA — Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy defence and aviation minister and inspector general, patronized here yesterday the graduation ceremony for the courses of the institute of air defence forces.

Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman was welcomed by commander of the western region Lt. General Salih al-Sidays, and a number of senior officers.

Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman handed over the certificates and prizes to the graduates. In a press statement following the graduation ceremony, Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman reiterated the kingdom's top attention to develop its armed forces in the light of its geographic and strategic characteristics as well as its vast area.

He also underlined the importance attached by the Ministry of Defence and Aviation to bring about expansions in the military colleges in order to accommodate more students.

For his part, commander of the air defence forces Lt. General Majid al-'Utaybi highlighted the great support being extended to the armed forces by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

'We feel proud of the high standard reached by the air defence forces in the kingdom, he said and added 'units of Patriot missiles, that are capable of confronting the air attacks, have been added to the air defence forces,' he said.

United Arab Emirates

UAE: Federal Council 'Unanimously' Amends Constitution

JN1806122996 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0833 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 June (WAKH) — The Federal National Council in the United Arab Emirates unanimously endorsed amending the Constitution in a session held today under its speaker 'Abdallah al-Muhayribi. Under the amendment, any reference to the Constitution as temporary will be canceled and Abu Dhabi will be the capital of the union. This was reported by the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY.

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Iraq: UNSCOM Chairman Rolf Ekeus Arrives for Talks With Officials

JN1906085196 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0847 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA) — Rolf Ekeus, executive chairman of the UN Special Commission [UNSCOM], arrived in Baghdad on a four-day visit to Iraq. Ekeus will hold talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Oil Minister 'Amir Muhammad Rashid on the relationship between Iraq and UNSCOM. Ekeus is accompanied by five aides, including Nikita Smidovich.

Iraq: Paper—UN Missions Now Involve 'Question of Dignity'

JN1906120196 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA) — In an article today on the missions of UN inspection teams in Iraq, the government daily AL-JUMHURIYAH says the purpose behind maintaining the blockade — which has been imposed against the Iraqi people for six years — and the genocide the Iraqi people are experiencing is to force Iraqis to tarnish their own honor. Iraqi citizens are no longer dealing with a political issue; it is now a question of dignity, both personal and national.

In this context, the paper wonders: What is the meaning of U.S. demands for the political situation in Iraq to be changed? This aims at stripping every Iraqi citizen of his primary and most important right — namely, the right to choose his own leadership and the form of his political regime.

AL-JUMHURIYAH recalls the public statements by the states of the imperialist-Zionist coalition that took part in the aggression against Iraq, foremost of which U.S. statements that the aggression was only meant to drive the Iraqi Army out of Kuwait and that they were not enemies of the Iraqi people and did not want to cause it any harm. The problem of Kuwait is over. However, the war of genocide against the Iraqi people is still continuing amid clear assertions by the U.S. Administration that the blockade will not be lifted as long as Iraq pursues an independent policy.

Iraq: Saddam Presides Over Armed Forces General Command Meeting

JN1906150596 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA)— President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, presided over a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command.

Iraq: Security Measures, Escape of Officer to North Reported

NC1806151296 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The ruling regime authorities in Baghdad have forced residents of al-Qadisiyah, al-Harithiyah, and al-Yarmuk neighborhoods to vacate their homes and move to other places. This took place after units of the regime's special guards were deployed there and antiaircraft guns were stationed in the gardens and on the roofs of their homes.

Residents said they saw the dispersal of vehicles, tanks, and armored vehicles that had been assembled at the special security command palace in the gardens of the former al-Zuhur Royal Palace to areas outside Baghdad. They added that this headquarters is one of two military posts to which UN inspectors and observers were denied access for inspection.

They affirmed that government and party agencies told them they must move to other places in anticipation of an air strike that the Security Council might order against this post, situated between al-Harithiyah and al-Qadisiyah districts.

Meanwhile, check points have been erected in all of Baghdad's main streets and squares. At the same time, the Baghdad emergency forces and party organizations have been placed on a state of maximum alert in anticipation of a potential military confrontation, after the regime created a new crisis with the United Nations.

The regime's ministry of information has imposed a ban on news and reports by Arab and foreign news agency correspondents in Baghdad. The ministry warned all correspondents and journalists against sending reports on the unstable political and economic conditions in Iraq. The regime authorities also curtailed the time allotted for telephone communications between Iraq and the outside world.

Elsewhere, it was disclosed in Dahuk that a senior military official in the Military Industrialization Commission had fled with his family to the northern area to escape the ruling regime's harassment and avoid the regime's orders to manufacture banned weapons. Reports said the official is an engineer with the rank of brigadier general from a family residing in Mosul. Previously, he was in charge of several departments in installations belonging to the Military Industrialization Commission and the regime's industry ministry.

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Iraq: Paper on Turkish 'Violation' of 'Territorial Integrity'

JN1906090696 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA) — In an article today, AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says it regrets and is concerned about the Turkish Armed Forces' persistent violation of Iraq's territorial integrity and airspace, thereby taking advantage of the difficult and abnormal conditions in the border region between the two countries. Turkey would have done well to coordinate with Iraq to deal with the abnormal situation in northern Iraq. The deployment of the so-called U.S. Hammer Force in Turkey has prolonged this abnormal situation. This reflected negatively on Turkey and Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH adds that Turkey's unacceptable attitude toward its neighbors is inspired by foreign forces that have take advantage of the political instability prevailing since the recent elections in Turkey. The Hammer Force's mandate was renewed and a military agreement was signed with the Zionist entity. This agreement threatens Arab security in general, and the security of Iraq and Syria in particular.

The newspaper accuses foreign forces of working to maintain political instability in Turkey. The forces also create political, security, and military instability in Turkey, which make its relations with Arab and non-Arab neighbors tense and likely to deteriorate at any moment .

AL-THAWRAH concludes: The major forces of the Turkish population are aware of these threats to Turkey's present and future. These forces will not allow their country's relations with neighboring countries to deteriorate further. The paper notes the stands of some Turkish parties, especially the Welfare Party, which demanded that the so-called Hammer Force leave Turkey. The Welfare party also called for establishing strong relations with Iraq and Syria and for canceling the suspect military agreement with the Zionist entity.

Iraq: Daily on Ramadan Meeting With Jordanian Political Figures

JN1806151096 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 19 Jun 96 p 5

[Report by 'Umar Kallab in Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan strongly criticized excluding Iraq from Cairo summit that will be held on 21-23 June. He said: We understand the summit's intentions and the motives of its sponsors. We know the depths the official Arab situation has reached. He added: Those who called for the summit did so to get closer to the new Israeli prime minister. Look at the level we have reached.

Ramadan said: Those who called for the summit are worried about their future after Shim'on Peres defeat in the elections. They fear for their great and honorable future because of Netanyahu.

The vice president was speaking at a meeting with the Jordanian popular and party delegation that is currently visiting Baghdad. The delegation is made up of 17 parties that represent various shades of the Jordanian political spectrum and trade unions.

Ramadan made his unscheduled, improvised address in response to a call by Husayn Mujalli, dean of Jordanian lawyers, for unity between Damascus and Baghdad. Ramadan then said: The summit was decided in Damascus. The Damscus summit participants also decided not to invite Baghdad. We in Iraq have always said, and we continue to say, that we are ready to turn a new page with all countries, without exception, and not just with Syria. Let us talk about reality, which is different from others' definition of reality as meaning capitulation. The two countries are separated by a solid wall. How can we ignore this fact and speak about unity? I demand that a delegation from amongst you go to them and convey this fact. In spite of Syria's reluctance, the Iraqi information minister said, the Iranians fired Syrian bullets at us. But this does not mean we are not ready to turn a new page with Syria.

Syrian-Iraqi relations were the focus of talks held by the Jordanians who are visiting Baghdad. This led the Iraqis to speak in full frankness about the subject. Taha Yasin Ramadan recalled the story of a Jordanian mediation between Baghdad and Damascus. Damascus told the Jordanian envoy, in the name of President Hafiz al-Asad: Are you serious about proposing reconciliation? I have opposed Iraq and Saddam Husayn for years, when the whole world was with him. Now that the world has turned against him, should I support him? Ramadan said: This shows how deep the Arab hatred is. Nevertheless, I continue to say that we have a good chance now, because the dangers are not facing only Damascus and Baghdad. They face all Arab countries.

Iraq reiterated its constants about Arab solidarity without encroachment on sovereignty and with the rejection of dependence and slavery. However, we were told without any shame, Iraq was regrettably not invited because of its known position on the peace settlement. I ask the one who is involved in a scandal not to expose himself. He added: We are honored that we are not attending a meeting that will discuss who is better, Netanyahu or Peres.

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On the siege, Ramadan said: Without the siege imposed by the neighboring countries, it would have been worthless. Ramadan asked: Are the common axes between the neighboring states and Israel greater than the common axes with us? Do you sit with Israel and describe it as friendly, and sit with its leaders and describe them as cousins, and at the same time refuse to sit with those who say Palestine is Arab? Are you afraid that the greater republic of Jericho will be canceled?

Finally, Ramadan said Iraq was bruised by the plotting of the enemies and relatives, but the overwhelming majority now firmly supports its leadership.

That meeting was the most significant one by the Jordanian popular delegation. The visit demonstrates the popular Jordanian position in support of Iraq, as voiced by most of the speakers, including Talal Naji, Mufdi Humaymat, and Jamal al-Ma'lawani from al-'Ahd Party. The unofficial Jordanian delegation emphasized that the popular Jordanian tendency is what led to this trip to Baghdad, which continues to have fraternal relations with the Jordanian people based on the known pan-Arab position.

Observers were surprised by the firm position of the centrist Jordanian parties. Mufdi Humaymat, deputy chairman of the Progress and Justice Party, emphasized in a speech on behalf of the Jordanian parties the firm position of these parties on Iraq and their rejection of the failure to invite Iraq to the summit and of the unjust siege imposed on it.

Iraq: Jordanian Delegation Departs After Visit

JN1806161396 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 18, INA—A number of the Jordanian delegations of organizations, unions political personalities, members of Parliament and pressmen left here today concluding a five day visit to Iraq.

Mr. Sulayman 'Arar, secretary general of the Jordanian "al-Mustaqbal" (Future) Party told INA that the Jordanian delegations had clearly witnessed in details through the explanations presented by the officials in the party and government in Iraq the dimensions of the conspiracy and the imperialist schemes against the Iraqi people and revolution.

Mr. 'Arar said that those conspiracies and schemes targeted the revolution in Iraq because it adopted an independent national attitude against the imperialists and Zionists who aimed at harming the aspirations and the future of the Arab nation and its civilizational, national and international role.

Member of the Executive Committee of the Constitutional Jordanian Arab Front Party, Mr. Talal Talab, stressed that the Jordanian political and professional delegations had come to Iraq to stress their full solidarity with the Iraqi people in confronting all the conspiracies aiming at harming Iraq's national unity:

The Jordanian delegations came to Iraq to express the Jordanian people's attitude vis-a-vis the Iraqi people, Mr. Talab said.

The Jordanian pressman Mr. Taysir al-Faris, editor in chief of ALWAN newspaper and Mr. Zuhdi Yusuf al-Badri, editor in chief of AL-HADAF weekly, praised the patience and steadfastness of the Iraqis in confronting the unjust embargo and their insistence on foiling the evil intentions that aim at harming the Iraqi citizens.

Iraq: Iran's 'Plotting' Against Bahrain via Hizballah Assailed

JN1906082696 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Jun 96 p 3

[Article by Sabri Hammadi: "Iran's New and Old"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again, the Iranian regime reveals its expansionist ambitions on the Arabian Gulf region. And, once again, it proves tangibly that what it has inherited from the Shah's regime includes, among other things, its dream to restore the Persian Empire's past glories and renew the Shah's claim and demand for "legitimate rights" on the western shores of the Gulf!

Any follower of Iranian history and Iran's old and new strategy in the Gulf region will not be surprised by the Tehran regime's plotting against Bahrain through the so-called "Hizballah-Bahrain" or by the Iranian regime's endeavor to overthrow the ruling regime in Bahrain and replace it with a pro-Tehran regime.

There is nothing new or secret in the fact that Iran has always considered the Arabian Gulf a vital region for achieving its expansionist ambitions and extending its influence. Iran has always considered Bahrain its 14th region, just as it has considered the plotting and aggression against and occupation of the territories of some states in the region as restoration of lands which the Arabs usurped from it!

If the Shah's regime endeavored to expand Iranian territory to restore the boundaries of the ancient Persian Empire, the present Iranian regime is endeavoring to achieve the same aim, however under a heavy religious mask this time. For 17 years now, it has plotted and exercised aggression and terrorism to impose its tutelage and hegemony over the region in general and the Arabs in particular under the banner of Islam!

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The Shah of Iran played the role of the armed policeman to serve U.S. strategy and plans in the region, while the present Iranian regime is plotting, exercising aggression, and occupying three Arab Islands to serve the same U.S. strategy.

Therefore, the false Iranian uproar about Tehran's hostility to imperialism, Zionism, and all the world forces of arrogance on the one hand, and the U.S. policy of "dual containment" on the other will not conceal the fact that there is U.S.-Iranian coordination to bolster U.S. military presence in the region and maintain the area under U.S. protection on the pretext of dealing with the "Iranian threat" to the region's security and states.

We are not accusing or incriminating anyone by saying that the Arabian Gulf regimes' silence over Iranian aggression and occupation of the three Arab islands — and, in fact, their occasional courtship of Iran — tempted Tehran and encouraged it to indulge in its aggressive and conspiratorial behavior against the Arabian Gulf states, headed by Bahrain. These actions, of course, followed the aggression against Iraq.

When we consider that the United States benefits from the Iranian regime's policies and plotting against the Gulf states, we understand U.S. indifference to all that Khomeyni's Iran has done in the Arabian Gulf region.

Despite all the aggressive and conspiratorial acts of the Iranian regime against the Arabian Gulf and other states, and despite the fact that the Iranian regime still occupies the three Arab islands, some of our brother nationalists, whose concern, devotion, and sincerity for their Arab nationalism is not doubted, still believe and say that "Islamist" Iran is a strategic asset for the Arab nation in its conflict against the Zionist enemy.

Iraq: SAIRI Leader on Opposition Groups' Agreement on Meeting

LD1806213296 Tehran IRNA in English 2114 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA — Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir Hakim, said here on Tuesday [18 June] that the ten Iraqi opposition groups which met in Damascus earlier this year, have accepted his request to hold another assembly.

The groups, including Islamists, nationalists and ethnic Kurds, have emphasized on the importance of a meeting to follow-up the work of the committees formed as a result of the Damascus gathering, he said.

Commenting on the recent agreement between Iraq and the United Nations on the limited sale of Iraqi oil to buy necessary food and medicine, Ayatollah Hakim said the movement of the Iraqi opposition forces inside the country would positively be affected by improvement of the country's economy and would boost the Iraqi people's aspirations to confront the Ba'thist regime.

Expressing concern over possible misuse of the oil revenues by the regime from the 'food for oil' deal, the SAIRI leader called for measures by the UN to prevent President Saddam Husayn from using the agreement to strengthen his own power.

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Israel: Netanyahu Presents New Government

TA1806141996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1323 GMT 18 Jun 96

[Address by Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu at special Knesset session held on the occasion of the presentation of the new government — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Honorable President Weizman, who has honored us with his presence, who has been active in the cause of national unity and for the glory of the State of Israel; Honorable Mrs. Weizman; Honorable Chief Rabbis; Knesset Members; Esteemed Guests:

Today I am honored to present the new government to the Knesset and to the citizens of Israel, a government that will lead the State of Israel along a new path.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of being the first Israeli prime minister to have been born after the state's establishment. The generation of the founding fathers had fought to establish the State of Israel and to build the state's foundations. Our generation had different challenges. This is an important turning point in our history. Generations of Jews fought, struggled, and dreamed during the 2000 years of diaspora to recover what our people had lost. Our main task since the state's establishment has been to defend, fortify, and develop that which had been recovered. The torch was passed on to us, the generation born with the state, those born in the late 1940's and 1950's, the generation that broke through the siege in the Six-Day War and repelled the joint offensive in the Yom Kippur War. It is now our responsibility to steer the historic hope into the next century. We have been privileged to turn the dream into reality. We promised, Mr. Speaker, that it would be a government of renewal, of a new path — and I do not mean cosmetic changes. It will not be the same government with different faces. This government will represent fundamentally profound and substantive change that will propel the State of Israel forward, toward the implementation of its goals in the 21st century.

Indeed, Knesset Members, the new government will be the government of a new path. New in its approach to security and to the quest for peace, first of all. Genuine peace with our neighbors can be attained. It is not a simple task, but I believe it is attainable. To reach this goal, endurance and determination, perseverance and patience are required. I wish to elucidate that we want a stable and durable peace, rather than a transient, temporary agreement. We want peace we can bequeath to our children and grandchildren, not one that will live until tomorrow's headlines. Such peace, however, is based on maintaining security, first and foremost, on maintaining the security of the State of Israel and of all its citizens. Therefore, security will be the paramount test of the peace agreements, and we will not compromise on that. We will not compromise of the security of the State of Israel's citizens. We will not tolerate any affront to the welfare of our children anywhere — in Jerusalem or Hebron, Tel Aviv or Ari'el, Qiryat Shemona or Kfar Darom.

Mr. Speaker, the security situation we are receiving is not simple. The security situation deteriorated throughout the country and on our borders in recent years, and to halt the deterioration we will have to wage a constant campaign against terrorism. Those who plan terror should know that they will encounter a resolute reaction — and I am not referring to the terrorists only, but also to their sponsors, overseers, operators, and collaborators. Security is an indispensable element if we are to move on to arrangements of genuine peace with our neighbors. Our interlocutors should know that to move toward that goal, they have to adhere meticulously to their every commitment. Our interlocutors should further know that should it become necessary, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the security forces will receive, whenever necessary, full freedom of action to act against terror.

I would like to say to our neighbors of the Palestinian Authority [PA] from this podium: We are ready to establish a true partnership of peace, neighborly relations, and cooperation with you on the basis of sustained security. The Government of Israel will negotiate with the PA provided it adheres to all its commitments. The negotiations will address both issues related to the implementation of the interim agreement and issues related to the permanent status arrangement that will allow both sides to live in peace and security. [prolonged heckling from Knesset Member Darawshah]

Mr. Speaker, Knesset Members: I believe the permanent status will be durable if two basic needs are at balance: minimum Israeli involvement in the lives of the Palestinians, and utmost security for Israel against terrorism and threats of war. We have to build a new reality that will grow from the Israeli-Palestinian coexistence. The absence of security was the cause of closure, paralysis, and economic suffocation of the other party. With security we will be able to have free traffic, an open economy, and prosperity for all.

We are naturally interested in entrenching the initial circle of peace first of all. The government headed by us will therefore act to deepen the ties of peace between Israel and Egypt and between Israel and Jordan. My talks with Egyptian President Mubarak and with King Husayn of Jordan reflected our shared desire for

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deeper ties, for joint action to strengthen and deepen cooperation and reciprocal ties between our countries. In addition, we will act to upgrade relations with other Arab countries that maintain ties with Israel: Qatar, Oman, Morocco, Tunisia, and Mauritania.

We would like to do more than preserve and deepen the existing circle of peace; we wish to widen the circle of peace with all our neighbors while upholding the vital interests of the state. This will be a predominant objective of the new government. From this podium I extend a peace invitation to all leaders of Arab countries. I am particularly appealing to our closest neighbors: Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, as well as leaders of other Arab countries. Let us conduct direct negotiations for peace, negotiations that will steer the Middle East to a new era of stability and prosperity — negotiations without preconditions, gentlemen. Therein lies the key: No preconditions. Every side should be able to present its concepts and stands without obliging the other party to agree to them in advance. We will not dictate our concepts to you, and you will not dictate yours to us. We will sit down and hold serious, cautious, responsible discussions aimed at attaining concord.

I hereby declare that we oppose the definition of Islam as the new enemy of Israel and the West, in the wake of the USSR's collapse. To the political dialogue between Israel and the region's countries we have to add a dialogue between Judaism and Islam. We are extending our hand in peace not only to the neighboring Arab countries, but also to the Muslim states and Muslim nations. We have no conflict with Islam, only a battle with militant powers that have been exploiting their distorted interpretation of Islam as a tool of violence, enmity, and bloodshed.

The new government will act to promote our international ties. Our relationship with the United States will remain the cornerstone of our foreign policy. We also take a positive view of Europe's contribution to the political process and look forward to continued extensive cooperation between Europe and Israel in the political, economic, and social spheres. At the same time, we will deepen our relations with the Russian Federation and the other CIS members, as well as with the Far East and Latin American countries. Israel takes a positive view of the many countries' contribution to the political process between Israel and its neighbors. Only the parties to the negotiations, however, can decide on its substance, because they alone will have to live with the outcome.

Mr. Speaker, the government I bring to the Knesset today will herald a new path in the social and economic spheres, too. I know we have heard many observations about privatization and liberalization over the years. We do not propose to continue speaking of privatization, free economy, fair competition. We do not propose to talk or to coin terms: We propose to make significant and practical steps in that direction. I believe that without a free economy we will be unable to take advantage of the enormous human resources at our disposal, the same resources that were very valuably enhanced both in quantity and quality by the massive immigration from the CIS and other countries, such as Ethiopia, in recent years. Only by encouraging free enterprise will we be able truly to integrate the immigrants and fully utilize the potential inherent in every citizen of the State of Israel. Only a free economy will allow us to solve the State of Israel's social problems. They cannot be solved with a slack, slumping, unstable economy. Only a healthy and vibrant free economy can give us the resources we need to solve these tough social problems which have deepened and deteriorated in the past few years.

Gentlemen, Knesset Members! The problems are indeed very serious. There are development towns which managed to soar in quite a wonderful manner, but there are other development towns — and I have visited them — plagued by grave problems of poverty and unemployment, and some suffer from a serious drug problem. I have visited Arab villages in the Galilee where I saw sewage streaming through streets, streets without sidewalks or illumination. You should not think these problems exist only in the periphery: I recently visited a flourishing city in central Israel where I met an elderly woman from the former USSR. Sobbing, she told me she could not afford basic staples, even bread. I visited a place five minutes from Tel Aviv where I met a family living as follows: The father and mother live in one room, while 10 children live in the other; an 11th child is on the way.

Such a situation is untenable. One cannot just ignore these phenomena. Members of the Knesset, I believe these problems are resolvable. The circle of poverty can be reduced and hope can be given to many people in the State of Israel who are currently in despair. First of all, however, there is a basic condition. We must first redress the basic problems of the Israeli economy. Unrestrained expenditures, a national debt of unprecedented scope, and rising inflation that threatens to run amok. Sometimes I attempt to explain the significance of these problems to economic laymen and the only analogy I can come up with is the following: Just as a family cannot live with a deficit that grows beyond its means, a country cannot continue with a burgeoning national debt. It is therefore our obligation to

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confront these problems. As prime minister, I consider dealing with our economic problems a major task. We will guarantee a policy of economic stability and pursue a policy of real growth. Such policies call for the widespread privatization of government companies, the dismantling of monopolies, the encouragement of initiative, and the creation of a competitive environment.

Members of the Knesset, the problem now is not only how to divide the pie of national resources. The real challenge is enlarging the pie. I ask for the cooperation of each and every one of you. I am appealing especially to the opposition benches. We are talking about a shared national goal to initiate a different policy. Our policy will be first of all to stop the deterioration of the economy and stem the increase in the national debt. We will seek to propel the economy forward on a new track. We can transform Israel's economy into one of the leading economies in the world.

Members of the Knesset, this will also be a new government with respect to the education and culture spheres. Over the past few years there has been a lot of talk about democracy, and rightfully so. Our duty is to cultivate values of tolerance and respect between people. We must nurture a culture of accepting the majority's decision while simultaneously upholding the rights of minorities. The Torah of Israel bequeathed the great principle of human dignity to the world. Because God made man in his own image. The absence of these values led some misguided individuals to extremism, violence, and ultimately to the terrible and despicable assassination of the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. We will strengthen the dialogue between all sectors of the people and come to know and respect each other. I think this understanding and partnership played a vital role in the history of our people and in the establishment of the State of Israel. I do not believe we would have made it to our first independence day without an underlying political understanding. I believe the combination of the diplomatic genius of our first president Hayim Weizman, the ideological brilliance of Berl Katzenelson and Ze'ev Jabotinsky, together with David Ben-Gurion's capability to make decisions and take action — I believe that this combination, at the crucial moment, and in a crucial decade, brought about the establishment of the State of Israel. This is the kind of unity that is needed from us now. Above all, we must remember that a nation unifies and clusters around its culture, heritage, and national values. The new government will promote the values of Israel's heritage in all educational and cultural institutions as well as in the media. The values of Israel's heritage must serve as a powerful inspiration to us in all our walks of life. The strengthening of our link to the Israeli people's eternal values, while at the same time stressing the democratic ideals of liberty and human dignity, will permit us to create a healthy society capable of confronting the great challenges we are facing and of making progress toward fulfilling the goals of Zionism.

Honorable Speaker, Zionism is not dead, although certain circles allude to it disparagingly. We have a wonderful youth, who are prepared to rally behind national missions. We will encourage this spirit. We will encourage pioneering settlement activity in Eretz Yisra'el: the Negev, the Galilee, Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights. The settlers are today's true pioneers and for that they are worthy of all our support and admiration. But above all, we will safeguard and strengthen Jerusalem, the Israeli people's eternal capital. We will keep it a united and undivided city under the sovereignty of the State of Israel.

Members of the Knesset, during this Knesset's term, we will mark the State of Israel's 50th anniversary and enter the 21st century. Achieving the national aspirations that the Israeli people set themselves over the last generations — the ingathering of the Jews from the diaspora and their absorption in the homeland; the population and development of the country; the fostering of an independent economy and a healthy society; and the attainment of peace with security — all depend on our faith, desire, and determination. We, the generation born following the establishment of the state, bear a great responsibility to continue the Zionist endeavor and bring it to fulfillment. Let us pray that we will prove worthy of this great responsibility. We live in a time for which many generations of Jews have prayed: the Jewish dream has been realized. The Jewish people have regained independence in their homeland, Eretz Yisra'el. Let us hope that the words of the prophet 'Amos — "In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen" ['Amos; 9; 11] — God willing, this booth will remain standing until the end of time.

Honorable Speaker, I am honored to present the new government to the Knesset:

Binyamin Netanyahu — prime minister, construction and housing minister, religious affairs minister, and foreign minister;
Refa'el Eytan — the title of deputy prime minister, agriculture minister, and environment minister;
Zvulun Hammer — the title of deputy prime minister and education and culture minister;
Moshe Qatzav — the title of deputy prime minister and tourism minister;
Yitzhaq Mordekhay — defense minister;
Dan Meridor — finance minister;
Ya'aqov Ne'eman — justice minister;

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Eliyahu Suissa — interior minister;
Natan Sharansky — industry and trade minister;
Avigdor Qahalani — internal security minister;
Binyamin Ze'ev Begin — science minister;
Yitzhaq Levi — transportation and energy minister;
Tzahi Hanegbi — health minister;
Limor Livnat — communications minister;
Eliyahu Yishay — labor and welfare minister;
Yuliy Edelstein — immigrant absorption minister.

Israel: Peres Reacts to Netanyahu Knesset Speech

TA1806150096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1343 GMT 18 Jun 96

[Address by outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres at special Knesset session held on the occasion of the presentation of the new government — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Honorable President of the State, Mrs. Weizman, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House:

The people had their say in democratic elections and we are all obliged to honor their decision — even if it was made with a very tenuous majority — because in a democracy any majority, even of one vote, is a legal majority. The State of Israel has experienced changes of government, and the handover of power was and will be orderly and full without any delays or impediments.

On behalf of the opposition I want to congratulate the new prime minister and the new government and wish them luck.

If the new government chooses to follow the right path we will support it, and if not we will criticize it. That is the nature of democracy and this is our mission in keeping with the voter's decision.

Mr. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, you spoke nicely about the need for national reconciliation and your wish to be the prime minister of the entire nation, both Jews and Arabs. You know as well as I do, however, that the people are split in their views. Some 1,471,566 citizens, about half the electorate, wanted a different choice; there is no point in concealing it. On their behalf I hope your government will conduct a balanced and responsible policy and will prefer full peace over a policy of not-an-inch. Incidentally, there is no disagreement between us that there should be no compromise on security issues, just as it was an unfounded libel to say we want to divide Jerusalem.

I hope that you will persistently abstain from launching a major settlement drive that will lead to a binational state, that you will abstain from imposing your rule over another people, and that you will be faithful to the Jewish moral code. I hope you will continue to tread the grand path broken in the last four years so that the State of Israel may live in security and peace. I am convinced that the vast majority of the people supports the peace process we started and wants it to continue.

The government will be tested by the people and by the world through its ability to carry out the wish of the majority of the people and fulfill Israel's international obligations; to continue to march forward on the path of peace and not, God forbid, to turn back the process. The government does not need to invent anything new to succeed. It must continue to cope with the numerous difficulties lying on the path of peace without straying from the central goal.

Mr. Prime Minister, my friend, I am afraid you will soon find out that the platform on which you were elected cannot be a formula for success and progress on the peace process. You will have to disappoint many of your voters and partners, if indeed you want to attain any results. Nice slogans cannot come instead of a policy, and coalition formulas will not obviate the need for courageous decisions and difficult resolutions.

Also, the basic guidelines you presented but did not submit to the Knesset are full of contradictions. Mr. Prime Minister, the Palestinians have already been given self-rule. So what are you promising them? There is no sense in proposing it to them again. In contrast, I must say that international agreements signed by one government are binding on subsequent governments. This is what all prime ministers, regardless of partisan affiliation, have done.

The new government is receiving a big inheritance, the likes of which no other Israeli government has ever received. I don't want to settle scores with the Likud. They were in power for 15 years. Did you eradicate poverty? Israel's position has never been as solid as today. In the last four years the government led by the late Yitzhaq Rabin, whom the people will never forget and whose partner and successor I had the privilege to be, conducted the most dramatic revolution in the history of the state. It changed the status and horizons of Israel. It brought about a breakthrough in Oslo. It created the structure for an interim arrangement and a permanent arrangement with our Palestinian neighbors. It paved the way for peace with Jordan. It established ties with those countries you mentioned. It created the opportunity to end the conflict in the Middle East through negotiations with Syria and Lebanon, and there is no sense in denying it. The Arab boycott collapsed, and Israel's relations currently stretch from the Maghreb to the Persian Gulf. The State of Israel was extricated from its chronic isolation and today has a respected position in the international community. Israel is today

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one of the most admired countries in the whole world. Israel's relations with the United States came up from a nadir to a peak of unprecedented friendship and political and security understanding. President Clinton made a decisive contribution to this degree of new friendship.

A whole world opened before Israel's citizens and Israel's economy soared to new heights. Economic growth soared, the gross national product zoomed, unemployment dropped, the standard of living rose, immigrants were properly absorbed, and most immigrants have apartments and jobs. I read in the papers after the elections that 61 percent of the immigrants believe they have been very nicely absorbed. Israel's Arabs began tasting equality in practice. The infrastructure of roads and junctions was improved beyond recognition. What is most important of all, investment in education and science were doubled. The education system in Israel is one of the leading ones in the world.

All those achievements are not self-evident. They are the fruit of a good policy. I must tell the members of the House that they might be the victim of a bad policy. They are the product of an order of priorities which became available as a result of a peace strategy which guided the outgoing government. In order to preserve and advance these achievements, the momentum of peace must be pursued, both with the Palestinians — and I am not ashamed that I went with 'Arafat. You will also go with 'Arafat, if you go for peace. You will also hold his hand if you are serious about what you say. The same applies to the Syrians, the Lebanese, and with the other Arab countries. It is imperative to advance toward peace on a broad front. One cannot survive in a narrow area if an effort is not made simultaneously in other areas, because there is mutual dependence between the components of peace. A policy of peace cannot be frozen on ice, since the termination of one process will arouse other and opposite processes.

The United States helped out and will continue to help. The United States did not exert pressure, and will most probably not pressure in the future either. The choice of peace is ours, not America's, and it is not a dictate by any other country.

Members of the House, in recent days we have been witnessing a new deployment in the Arab world. I believe the Arab world's reaction was rash. It should have first allowed the government to organize its policy and act accordingly. There is no ignoring, however, that the entire Middle East has not come to terms with the peace process, with the buds of peace. There are even some who are scheming to kill it, and there are even some who took part in the election process in Israel.

The Israeli capital market and economic elements are showing signs of concern, and foreign investors are closely following what is happening. The United States, the EU, and markets in the East and the West are waiting to see whether the peace process will continue, not through words and rhetoric, but in practice. We should know that the economy and peace go hand in hand. The problem is not private initiative — that is not what the argument is about. The problem is a courageous, correct, and practical peace initiative.

The government's upcoming test will be its commitment to redeploy the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in Hebron in accordance with the Oslo B agreement. This is a specific commitment, Mr. Prime Minister, and the government must abide by it. Contrary to all allegations, this redeployment in no way harms the holy sites or the security of the Jewish residents of Hebron. It involves no change in praying arrangements in the Cave of the Patriarchs. What it involves is the handover of the vast majority of Arab Hebron to the responsibility of the Palestinian Authority [PA].

The government must continue the deliberations about the permanent arrangement. I must say that at the end of the day the PA abided by most of its commitments, including in the security area. Hebron is only one item. There is a deeper and broader question: Where is the State of Israel headed at the advent of the 21st century? It is not a question of when or where I was born, it is a question of where we are going. One may think in static terms that what was will continue to be, and that the Middle East will forever remain, as some experts say, a region in conflict mired in uncompromising hate and eruptions of terror and bloody wars, a kind of bad nature reserve in a world changing at a fast pace.

In contrast, one may think in dynamic terms about a Middle East that is not immune to the shifts of history, that is not immune to technological progress or the information age, that is not immune to economic interests; a Middle East that is not alien to human expectations in our day and age.

The truth is that the Middle East is currently in a transition period in which conservative and progressive forces are working with full force; violent fundamentalism versus forces of democratization and market economy. In such a dynamic reality, Israel cannot and must not be a passive factor. It must encourage the establishment of a coalition of forces of peace and progress and even create such forces. Israel will not be able to fulfill such a role unless it adopts an active policy of peace, whose meaning is a historic reconciliation and territorial compromise — and I am speaking clearly.

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Thank God, we are no longer imposing our rule over another people, and we must complete this process. We must find new partners, in the knowledge that the raw material of future partners is yesterday's enemy. The region is waiting to see how the new government will act. There is no doubt that the peace faction in the Arab world, both the overt and the concealed one, with which we conducted a political dialogue hopes the government will continue in the footsteps of the outgoing government. By the same token, the enemies of peace, Tehran and its offshoots — Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and Hizballah — yearn for the new government to adopt the extreme pronouncements made by the right-wing camp, which will put an end to their hated peace process.

Israel and the countries of the region need a new strategy of peace because the terms of war are also new. The sophistication, range, and increased lethal power of missiles and nonconventional weapons would turn a potential military confrontation into a catastrophe. It could be a war with victims but without victories. The coalition of hatred in the Middle East is striving to attain a nuclear option and use terror until then, including the terror of suicide operators which borders on derangement.

Mr. Speaker, time is not indifferent. It is critical. A race of many war horses is under way in the region and our people cannot be told to adopt the attitude of a turtle crawling slowly and counting on its shell. Neither is it enough to agree among ourselves. A policy of peace calls for two sides. The government can reach formulas for peace with its right-wing partners such as peace in exchange for peace or peace without preconditions, but it will soon find out that the world does not fall into step. In that case it will be left without peace, and with no peace and security in the region. True, Israel also needs to make peace at home. Only real peace, however, will remove the causes of dissension among the people. Only a true peace will release the tremendous spiritual energy of the Israeli people and create a new era of cultural and spiritual blooming.

Honorable Speaker, Knesset members: As noted before, the people issued its verdict. I can only respect the public's decision. I won the trust of 49.51 percent of the voters. The difference was less than 0.5 percent. It was not enough to win, but it is more than enough so as not to forget the expectations accompanying those ballots: to create a new Israel, to create a new Middle East, and to bring peace to Israel and in Israel.

After the results of the elections were published, I received on a daily basis — and continue to receive — thousands of fervent letters of encouragement from citizens in Israel and from friends abroad. Among those writing me are children, youth, adults, and the elderly, both Jews and non-Jews. I feel emotion and deep gratitude for the strong support I received in the election and I thank all those who voted for me or wrote me letters. I pray that the fears expressed by those who wrote me will be proven false. I pray that their hopes will be fulfilled.

Among these letters was one by Gil Greenberg, who is present here at the Knesset. He is a gifted 17-year-old, an invalid confined to a wheelchair. He writes among other things: Despite the political defeat, I have a feeling that no one can undermine the peace you built together with the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Our peace is a fact signed in the pages of history. Facts cannot be erased. The change of government in Israel demands that we pursue the same path vigorously and with determination. I promise to continue. I promise to do everything so that peace will win. I believe in it with all my heart, and this time I feel that our mission is even greater. It is not enough to continue the political process as the Netanyahu government plans, if indeed that is even the case. We must make all sectors of the Israeli public understand the need to reach peace with our neighbors. The public must be made to realize that only peace can bring real security to the Israeli people and not the other way around. You, I, and half the Israeli people are keenly aware of this. Gil then draws an analogy between his physical handicap and the anxieties prevailing in the public. He recounts how a girl, blind from birth, once told him how she was afraid to open her eyes. I am frightened of what I might see, she said. I'm afraid that the strong light might dazzle my eyes. Gil adds: We, human beings, have probably been born that way, with a war mechanism that coarsened our souls in order to survive, and it is so hard, so hard to free ourselves of it even in return for something we believe in and crave so much: the sublime happiness lying in the foundations of peace.

I would like to promise you, my dear Gil, that peace will win. Israel's prophets imparted to the world the vision of peace and the end of wars. Our people have experienced tragedies and wars, terror and bereavement, but the faith in peace never died in it. Based on its strength we paved a way, and based on its strength we will continue to struggle, also in the opposition, to bring closer the day of the fulfillment of the prayer: Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have.

My friend, the incoming prime minister, the opposition today greets you and your new government as you start your way, and gives you credit to pursue the path of peace. This is our advice, this is our hope, this will be

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our struggle. This is the mission and test of any Israeli government. In any event, the opposition will stand alert. It will do whatever it can so that the government does not stray from this path.

Mr. Speaker, an Israeli prime minister was murdered seven months ago. I would like to believe that we have not forgotten this horrendous crime, because the bullets of the heinous assassin were aimed at the heart of Israeli democracy. Beyond all disagreements, we are one people. We have one government and one Knesset. We have a president, 'Ezer Weizman, who with his fiery spirit and fascinating personality symbolizes and represents the unity of the nation. Even at the height of the most acerbic agreement let us not forget the late Yitzhaq Rabin. Let us not forget the assassination, let us not forget the lesson.

True, a mission cannot be assassinated and a way cannot be murdered. We will debate and argue with utmost seriousness, but we will respect each other and the right of our fellow men to hold a different view. Perhaps this Knesset will deviate from previous ones and will pose to the entire public an example of a new polemical culture even at a time of serious dispute. This will honor the House and honor all Knesset members.

A new government and a new Knesset has set out on a new way. It is hoped that this will be a good way for the entire people.

Israel: Netanyahu Presents Foreign Minister, Announces New Ministry

TA1806192196 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1905 GMT 18 Jun 96

[Statement by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at the Knesset plenum — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Article 33E of the Basic Law: The Government, I wish to make the following statement.

Pursuant to my statement on the government composition delivered at the beginning of the Knesset session, I am adding herewith that the foreign minister in this government will be Knesset Member David Levi, who will bear the title of deputy prime minister and acting prime minister-designate.

In addition, I would like to announce that a National Infrastructure Ministry will be established, to include the following elements, among others: Israel Lands Administration; matters pertaining to railroads in accordance with the Ports Authority and Railroad Law; energy-related infrastructure, on which a separate announcement will be issued; the development of bypass roads in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; defense industries; and in addition to the above, other spheres to be determined in the future will be transferred to the National Infrastructure Ministry.

Israel: Levi Named New Foreign Minister; Sharon 'Crisis' Not Settled

TA1806192896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The new government headed by Binyamin Netanyahu has obtained the confidence of the Knesset. Netanyahu and 16 ministers took an oath of allegiance and assumed their positions. Sixty-two Knesset members supported the new government, and 50 members of the opposition voted against it.

The voting came after lengthy contacts with Ari'el Sharon, who is at his farm in the south, centering on a proposal to serve as a minister for national infrastructure. According to this proposal, the new ministry will be in charge of all issues pertaining to infrastructure: land, roads, railways, ports, airports, water, electricity, fuel, gas, and even satellites.

A short time ago Sharon told Channel 1 correspondent Dan Scemama he had not yet received any proposal, and according to him it was all a big deception.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that Netanyahu and Sharon spoke a short time ago, but even after this conversation Sharon said the crisis had not yet been settled. Our correspondent adds that delegations have been converging on Sharon's home to express their support.

Knesset Member [MK] Me'ir Porush of United Torah Jewry, who is slated to be the deputy construction minister, said his party objects to ceding portions of the ministry and that nothing had been agreed with him. MK Yitzhaq Levi of the NRP [National Religious Party], the transportation and energy minister, said he had not been asked to cede portions of his ministry and he will not agree to yield them.

The speaker of the session, MK Rehav'am Ze'evi, announced that the plenum would discuss the inclusion of another minister in the government tonight. He is MK David Levi, who due to the Sharon crisis was not included in the list of ministers endorsed and sworn in a short time ago. [At 1916 GMT Levi is sworn in as the new foreign minister.]

From now until a new speaker is elected, Knesset sessions will be chaired by MK Shim'on Peres, the doyen MK. Peres was the first to congratulate the new prime minister immediately after Netanyahu took his oath. Peres and all other members of his cabinet moved

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to the opposition benches, and the new ministers took their place around the government table in the center of the Knesset hall.

Israel: IDF To Obtain 'Greater Freedom' To Operate Against Terrorists

TA1906085896 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jun 96 p 13

[Report by Yosi Levi]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The security forces and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will be allowed to operate against terrorists with greater freedom than they have had up to now," a senior defense source close to the Likud said in the wake of Yitzhaq Mordekhay's appointment as defense minister.

According to several senior defense sources, the new defense minister will have to deal with a series of urgent problems. They said the first is the problem of terrorism inside the Green Line and in Judaea and Samaria. To deal with that there will be a need for close cooperation among the IDF, Shin Bet, and the police. The new defense minister has clear concepts about fighting terrorism, and they will apparently be implemented in several weeks. Another defense issue of no less importance is the security zone in south Lebanon, increased Hizballah activity, and the latest blow sustained by the IDF there. Mordekhay will be forced to deal with the understandings reached after Operation Grapes of Wrath.

Another burning issue on the agenda is the evacuation of Hebron or what the IDF calls the "redeployment." A series of consultations with the participation of the prime minister and senior officers in the Central Command and defense officials will be held in the coming days.

The tendency over the past few days is to change the IDF's redeployment plan in Hebron. Another important issue facing the defense establishment is cooperation with the Palestinian Authority on terrorism and defense matters.

Israel: Egyptian Envoy Welcomes Netanyahu on Land-for-Peace Basis

TA1606110196 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Basyuni, Egyptian ambassador to Israel, today said that the Arab world will welcome Netanyahu if the new Israeli Government accepts the principle of land for peace. This morning Basyuni met several Labor Knesset members, who gave him a letter to President Mubarak in which they request that he show patience toward Netanyahu. Our correspondent Daniyel Shani heard Basyuni:

[Begin recording] [Basyuni, in English] We are waiting, we will wait, we will give him a chance and the Arab summit meeting is a positive one, to support the peace....

[Shani translates and continues] Basyuni added that the Arabs will not start by issuing aggressive statements against Israel. [end recording]

Israel: Netanyahu Government Platform 'Clerical,' 'Isolationist'

TA1806095996 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jun 96 p B1

[Editorial: "An Isolationist Platform"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The new government's basic guidelines leave no doubt about their purpose. Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu plans to sharply change the direction the state was moving in under the outgoing government. It is acceptable to assume that the declared operational goals of Israeli Governments have only limited value, but it is a mistake to ignore them. Government platforms indicate their objectives, in particular in an era when an elected official is tested by his success in meeting the commitments he undertook during the campaign.

The political section of the Netanyahu government's basic guidelines show a willingness to negotiate with Syria without preconditions, but that point is immediately contradicted by other clauses stating that "retaining Israeli sovereignty over the Golan will be the basis for an arrangement with Syria." As for the Palestinians, the new government announces that it offers them a restricted autonomy, that it rejects the establishment of a Palestinian state or the imposition of foreign sovereignty west of the Jordan River, and opposes "the right of return" of the Arab population to any part of the Land of Israel west of the Jordan River. It should be recalled that the outgoing government declared in its basic guidelines that it will advance the peace process with the Palestinians without prior conditions.

While the Labor government made do with an undertaking to adopt a policy that assures the existence of the settlements, the Netanyahu government has announced that it will alter the previous policy, bolster settlement enterprises (including those in the territories), allocate the necessary resources, and insist on the affinity of the Jewish settlements to the State of Israel in any political arrangement.

Some of the wording in the political section of the basic guidelines leaves a narrow opening for conducting a

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peace policy on the basis of the outline decided on in the Oslo Accords, such as the clauses declaring the government's aspiration for peace and its readiness to negotiate with the Palestinian Authority. Netanyahu's unreadiness to accede to the demands of the NRP [National Religious Party] and the Third Way on the need for a special majority to amend the Golan Law or to impose Israeli law on part of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in the basic guidelines can be seen as being in the same spirit. But that is a poor consolation. The overall spirit of the political sections of the government platform is to unequivocally reject the policy of the outgoing government.

That is also true of other parts of the guidelines. The balance between the religious and secular sectors can be expected to be shaken because of a readiness to reverse deviations which have allegedly developed in the status quo. The new government will act to restrict the professional freedom of archaeologists, foil any attempt at non-Orthodox conversions, and create an opening for Jewish worship on the Temple Mount. The clerical and nationalist tendency is also expressed in the chapter on education, which states that the aim is to emphasize Jewish values and tradition, and that the Bible, the Hebrew language, and the history of the Jewish people will take their rightful place in the school curriculum.

The portrait of the Netanyahu government heralds national isolation and xenophobia. The basic guidelines leave only a narrow margin to enable the government to adapt its actions to the pressure of reality and the universal gusts of wind.

Israel: Curfew Imposed on West Bank Village After Policeman Killed

TA1606152696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The village of Biddiya in Samaria has been under curfew since the murder of the Israeli policeman at noon. Major General 'Uzi Dayan, commander of the Central Command, said the aim is to make it clear to the Palestinians that it cannot be business as usual after such a terrorist attack.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] transferred to the Palestinian police details of the attack and urged it to capture the terrorist if he escapes into the Palestinian Authority. The terrorist shot the policeman and his wife when they stopped at a shop in Biddiya. The woman sustained medium wounds.

Israel: 350 Palestinians To Receive 'Preferential' Entry Permits

TA1706155196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chamber of Commerce and the Civil Administration have agreed to grant permits to 350 Palestinian businessmen to enter Israel. They are to receive preferential treatment in entering the country.

Israel: Peres Decides To Return 3 VIP Cards, Grant Dozens More

TA1606164096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Peres government has decided to return VIP cards to three Palestinians from whom they were withdrawn because they had misused the cards. Is this a last-minute move to create facts on the ground? Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Ben-Menahem] This is definitely a last-minute move by Shim'on Peres as prime minister and defense minister to create facts on the ground. A senior Palestinian Authority [PA] source told me a short while ago that the prime minister decided to return the VIP cards recalled from three senior PA officials — Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir], Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, and 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad — after they had smuggled students from Gaza to the West Bank in violation of the terms of their cards.

Furthermore, the prime minister also decided to grant VIP cards to some 60 members of the Palestinians' elected council who cannot travel freely between the West bank and the Gaza Strip. A few days ago, a meeting of the PA council was canceled in Nabulus because members refused to undergo security checks. However, these will be second-rate VIP cards, which means that their owners will still have to undergo security checks, but less stringent ones.

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Jordan: King Husayn Expects 'Heated' Arab Summit, Views Israeli Election

JN1806190596 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn expressed hope that the upcoming Arab summit in Cairo will achieve reconciliation among all Arab states, reaffirming that integration is the only path left to achieve progress in the region.

His majesty added: With regard to Israel, I do not believe that the Arab summit needs to do anything other than review regional developments. In this regard, the king said that the summit will affirm its full commitment to all that has been achieved so far on the path of peace. He expressed hope that more progress will be achieved on the basis of what has already been attained.

In an interview with the LOS ANGELES TIMES, His Majesty King Husayn said that it was too early to say whether there is any change in the Israeli stand vis-a-vis peace.

His majesty indicated that the Israeli elections were a democratic exercise to elect the person who best represents the hopes of the Israeli people so he can lead them in the future. His majesty added: This had nothing do with a peace camp versus an antipeace camp. He expressed the hope that the overwhelming majority of the Israelis are committed to peace.

His majesty the king continued: The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty won the support of the overwhelming majority of the Israeli Knesset members. It enjoyed unprecedented support in the Knesset in terms of votes. I do not know why we should view the outcome of these elections as a sign of a course change, particularly since we have heard about the Israeli Government's intention to honor all its commitments and pledges, and its plan to continue to work with all honorable parties in the struggle toward a comprehensive peace.

When asked on whether or not his majesty the king expects the Cairo summit to see heated debates, he said: I do not expect to see anything else. There is a dire need for frankness and sincerity.

His majesty king Husayn said that Jordan will do its best to make up for lost time, missed opportunities, and the dark past. He added: We must continue to build on what we have attained. As far as we are concerned, nothing will slow down this process. He hopes that all parties in the region will work to promote the peace process, and affirmed that turning peace into a concrete reality in the region will increase the opportunities to resolve tough problems. In contrast, the adoption of adverse stands can only make them more complicated.

His majesty the king said, although East Jerusalem has been occupied since 1967, he does not see anything that might prevent the return of the holy city to a gathering place for the followers of the three monotheistic religions. It will also be a symbol for peace between the Palestinians and Israelis.

His majesty the king called for giving Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu the opportunity to prove himself. He expressed the belief that Netanyahu will realize what is expected of him. His majesty continued that, at any rate, the Israeli people have made their choice. We have to live with this choice and respect it. We also have to continue to build on what has been achieved so far.

His Majesty King Husayn reiterated Jordan's commitment to its support for the Iraqi people to enable them to live in an atmosphere of democracy. He stressed that our struggle is for the sake of the Iraqi people to help them achieve their rights and live in peace and harmony.

When queried about Jordan's concern over recent border infiltrations, His Majesty King Husayn said: The attempts to disturb Jordan's stability have never ceased. They have continued. They target Jordanian officials, visitors to Jordan, and the country's stability. Nonetheless, thanks to the efforts of our people, we have managed to thwart these attempts. In this regard, his majesty the king said he hopes that the issue of terrorism in the Arab homeland and elsewhere will be dealt with.

Jordan: Muslim Brotherhood Urges Syria, Turkey To End 'Tension'

JN1906112296 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Jun 96 p 20

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The Muslim Brotherhood [MB] issued a statement yesterday on the military buildup along the Syrian-Turkish border. The statement says: The timing of this buildup and the state of tension which prevails is an outcome of the recent Turkish-Israeli air force cooperation agreement. This agreement poses a threat to the Islamic states in the region and stands in the way of these states' advancement and efforts to build a protection and deterrence force. The agreement is also an implementation of an old Israeli strategy of isolating the Arabs from their non-Arab neighbors; igniting wars between them; spreading doubts and fears; jeopardizing Arab independence and water rights at the river heads of the Nile, Euphrates, and Tigris; persistently seeking to entrench hostility among the Islamic states; and triggering all sorts of sectarian, ethnic, and regional conflicts within each state.

The statement adds: The U.S. and Jewish role in straining relations between Turkey and its Arab neighbors is

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clear and persistent. It aims at destroying what is left of the power these two Islamic states possess. Moreover, stirring conflict and tension between the two states weakens the Syrian position, which is already facing great pressures to give up the Golan and end national resistance against the Israeli occupation of Lebanon.

The statement says: The MB calls on the two sisterly states to return to the spirit of Islam and to place the Arab nation's interests above all other interests in order to pull the rug from under the feet of our historical enemies and prevent them from achieving their malicious goals and vile ambitions. The enemies seek to entrench malevolence among the Muslim peoples, drain their energies, and destroy the two states' power and potential which should be preserved to protect the nation and its sovereignty; defend the homelands, their resources, and rights; and assert their influential presence on the regional and international arenas.

The statement adds: The MB calls on all honorable men in this nation to do their best to defuse sedition and fratricide and spare the blood of Muslims. They also call on the peoples of this nation to resist the "hot-zones strategy" which the United States came up with to justify its interference in the region.

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Lebanon: Defense Minister on New Israeli Government, Conspiracy

NC1706153696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut, 17 Jun (MENA) — Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul described the Arab summit that will be held in Cairo on Saturday [22 June] as a very important event that must be used as a stepping stone for the revival of inter-Arab solidarity and reconciliation, and to confront threats to pan-Arab security. He noted that these threats are greater today than ever before. [passage omitted]

Dallul said that the Arab summit must determine the nature of peace and affirm that this peace must adhere to the Madrid conference resolutions, without conceding any legitimate Arab rights.

He declared: It is important to hold this summit as a way of underlining our commitment to Arabhood and our rejection of any divisions among ourselves as we confront Israel. [passage omitted]

Asked if the state of anticipation in which the region is living might lead to greater tension in south Lebanon, Dallul said: At first sight, it might appear likely that the security situation in the south will erupt because Israel is continuing its assaults.

He noted, however, that in light of the united and positive Arab response to holding a summit, and the solidarity and unified position it is expected to yield, Israel might hesitate before launching any new aggression on Lebanon.

Dallul remarked: Israel must understand that any new aggression will prove costly to it, because it will adversely affect Arab-Israeli relations.

He said he believes that Arab solidarity will force Israel to think twice about carrying out any such action, because it will affect its ties with some Arab countries.

Dallul voiced pessimism regarding the prospective participation of extremist religious parties in the new Israeli Government, describing these parties as enemies of the whole Arab nation. He noted that refusal to withdraw from the occupied Lebanese and Syrian territories means a rejection of a comprehensive peace with all the Arab countries, because such a peace will not be established without Syria and Lebanon.

Concerning the prospects of resuming the peace talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, Dallul said that this hinges on the U.S. attitude, which must become less biased to Israel. He declared that the United States must be a neutral intermediary in the peace talks.

Muhsin Dallul believes that there is a conspiracy against the Arab region, which involves exerting pressures on Syria, Libya, and Iraq.

The Lebanese defense minister noted that Turkey's military incursions into Iraqi territory and its signing of a strategic security agreement with Israel pose a very serious threat to pan-Arab security. He called on the Arab leaders to confront this threat and back Syria, Libya, and Iraq in the context of comprehensive Arab solidarity.

Lebanon: Al-Jumayyil on Outcome of Tripartite Meeting

MM1806081196 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jun 96 p 2

[Interview with former Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil by Sa'd Kiwan in Rome on 16 June]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kiwan] What did you discuss with the patriarch [Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sufayr]?

[Al-Jumayyil] I put his beatitude in the picture of the tripartite meeting [of al-Jumayyil, General Michel 'Awn, and National Liberal Party leader Dory Sham'un], since our rhetoric corresponds to Bkirki's national rhetoric and with what was mentioned in the statement issued by the synod (held for the sake of Lebanon in the Vatican at the end of last December). The statement outlined national aims and risks. I also briefed his beatitude on the tripartite meeting's program at this stage, especially as the country is approaching regional and local developments prompting unity. His beatitude expressed his understanding of and support for all views, and coordination is continuing with him abroad and in Lebanon through Dory Sham'un.

[Kiwan] With regard to the elections, it seems that matters have been settled in favor of holding the elections at governorate level, with the exception of the Jabal [Lubnan], which will be divided into districts. What will the tripartite meeting's position be, especially as [National Bloc leader] Raymond Iddah has appealed to the Lebanese people to boycott the elections?

[Al-Jumayyil] The Lebanese situation is not limited to the elections. The elections are an important link, but they are one of a set of steps. Serious things are taking place, such as agreements, treaties, and the naturalization question. Granting citizenship to 500,000 people is bound to disrupt the equation, and there are things aimed at excluding Lebanon from the negotiations. We understand that there should be coordination with Syria, but the exclusion is a serious question. As for the second point, that matter is not dependent on the electoral

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system. Even the governorate system is unfair, because it puts al-Biqa' in the Shiites' hands in the north and Beirut in the hands of the Sunni majority. As for the Jabal, it has been partitioned to fragment the Christian position and render it ineffective, maybe as revenge against a certain group.

[Kiwan] But there is a Christian party participating in power and another will probably take part in the elections.

[Al-Jumayyil] Those participating do not represent their constituencies, and it seems that the state is determined to push people toward trivial positions. Those who will supervise the elections do not enjoy any credibility. The pressure exerted on the leaders abroad to prevent them from returning to the country is designed to prevent them from participating and shouldering their national responsibility. Yet the regime is worried about the results of the elections and the people being prompted to boycott the elections.

[Kiwan] Do you not believe that the results of the Israeli elections will lead to a kind of "relaxation" in the Lebanese situation?

[Al-Jumayyil] That is correct logically, but the electoral law imposed a few days ago in Syria and the group assigned to supervise the elections do not indicate so. The regime's intentions toward the leaders abroad are clear and reached the point of threats. [Foreign] Minister Faris Buwayz said in Paris recently that he would arrest General 'Awn if he decides to return to Lebanon. Another minister stressed in a meeting with governors that there are people banned from returning to the country because they have no place under the state's ceiling, that is, under Syrian policy.

[Kiwan] Do you not believe that the lack of an agreement among the leaders abroad is weakening their position and credibility toward Christians? And why is Iddah refusing to coordinate with you?

[Al-Jumayyil] The country is occupied, there is military and intelligence dictatorship, and the Lebanese will is shackled. To preserve their livelihood, the people are compelled to conform, but they are not satisfied. About 87 percent of the voters boycotted the elections in 1992. I believe that pressure could be exerted on the people to force them to go to the polling stations. There is an atmosphere of rejection, which was expressed by the unions when they raised the bread and freedom slogan. The tripartite meeting is a successful experiment which represents a large section of the people. We are in the process of expanding participation, and our contacts are continuing with figures such as Dr. Albert Mukhaybar.

[Kiwan] But that remains sectarian in nature.

[Al-Jumayyil] We are seeking to make contacts and coordinate with Islamic figures. We are in touch with some of them already. But the matter is not easy. They too are under pressure. [Former] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami tried in the 1992 elections to broaden participation and include opposition parties, but threats were made against him, which caused him to backtrack. Prime Minister al-Huss too described Christian participation as essential. And Prime Minister Sa'ib Sallam had the courage to boycott the elections.

[Kiwan] But Sallam seems to be determined to participate this time?

[Al-Jumayyil] There are stronger pressures at present.

[Kiwan] Will the tripartite meeting opt for boycott?

[Al-Jumayyil] We will meet in the next few days to take the right position.

[Kiwan] Will Engineer Sham'un decide to participate, now that the Jabal has been divided into districts as he demands?

[Al-Jumayyil] We too are for forming districts, but in all Lebanon, not just the Jabal, and within an atmosphere of freedom and honesty.

[Kiwan] What about your disagreement with Iddah?

[Al-Jumayyil] There is no disagreement with him. He has a different nature and a different temperament. But the bridges are there and coordination will be conducted, albeit indirectly, that is via Dory Sham'un.

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Syria: Press Says Netanyahu Platform 'Real Coup' Against Peace

JN1906073896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 19 Jun 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today headlined "Cairo Summit Heralds New Era," AL-BA'TH says: There are many challenges to pan-Arab security. Escalating tension will only serve Israel, which rebelled against international legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH says: The Cairo summit is not being convened just because Arab leaders want to meet with each other. The summit is being convened because the Arabs are threatened. Arab leaders, as well as citizens, know this. There is no longer anything hidden in the policy of our nation's historical enemies. Priority should be given to peace. However, we do not think that a single Arab wants peace with Israel before the restoration of the al-Aqsa, the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the rights of the Palestinian people. Otherwise, what is the value of thousands of martyrs and half a century of tragedies?

AL-BA'TH adds: The world views the Cairo summit as a response to a bad era. The world will not respect the Arabs if they disregard their rights and forget that their national security is threatened by an alliance of serious intentions.

AL-BA'TH notes that Syria views the Cairo summit with satisfaction, as long as the meeting in itself is a positive action and a challenge to the existing circumstances which only benefit those who have a vested interest in Arab fragmentation.

The paper concludes: The statements of the new Israeli leadership give the impression that Israel does not want peace and is not supportive of international efforts for the peace process. Given this complete disavowal of the peace process, the Arab summit should stress that the Arabs must not be the only peace advocates, while usurpers and aggressors are protected by the veto and threaten to launch aggression. Will the Arab summit comprehend what is happening and set the stage for a new era?

Under the headline "Netanyahu's Deception," TISHRIN comments on the platform of Binyamin Netanyahu's government. Observers agree that the platform is a deliberate attempt to sabotage the peace process and undermines all international efforts over the past years. Netanyahu's platform calls for keeping the Golan and Jerusalem and expanding Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It also rejects the establishment of any Palestinian state. All this contradicts the principles of the peace process.

TISHRIN notes that Netanyahu tried to soften the international shock created by his platform by calling on Syria and Lebanon to hold direct negotiations without preconditions, while planning to make no concessions. This is a deceptive attitude. The world knows that the peace process is based on principles and resolutions, all of which call for Israel's full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. This process is also based on a clear principle: land for peace.

TISHRIN says: Netanyahu rejected withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, pledged to expand settlements in the West Bank, and even in the Gaza Strip, and rejected the establishment of any Palestinian state. What did he leave for the peace process and on what will the Arabs negotiate?

TISHRIN concludes: Claiming a desire for peace is one thing and working for it is another. Israel launched many wars under the pretext of seeking peace. It also carried out many attacks under the pretext of forcing its opponents to accept peace. When the Arabs sincerely responded to the principles of just peace and international law, Israel went crazy and tried to evade and cancel these principles. The current Likud government, led by Netanyahu, has adopted the tactics of its predecessor, in terms of procrastination, temporization, deception, and hollow claims. Peace and occupation are irreconcilable. One of the conditions for peace is Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

In a commentary entitled "Israeli War on Peace," AL-THAWRAH says: The government platform of Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu is a real coup against the peace process. This platform is a translation of the consensus of the extremist rightwing parties who won the elections and saw eye to eye with the Likud on rejecting peace, abandoning its march, and disregarding international efforts in general, and U.S. efforts in particular, to achieve peace.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the platform of the new government advocates keeping the occupied Golan. If this is the case, then what will Syria negotiate on; what incentive is there to continue the peace process?

The paper concludes: Land is the substance of the conflict. The Israeli occupation is the problem. It is common knowledge that a just and comprehensive solution must be based on removing occupation, returning land to its owners, and giving everybody their rights in accordance with the rules and resolutions of international legitimacy.

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Syria: Netanyahu Program Termed 'Open War' Against Peace Process

JN1806153096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1141 GMT 18 Jun 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Binyamin Netanyahu will present his government to the Israeli Knesset today. He has already submitted his government program to the Knesset Office. This program is a total coup against the peace process and disappointed all those concerned with achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Netanyahu's program includes the following: Rejecting the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank or any sovereign Palestinian entity; any agreement with the Palestinians should keep and consolidate the Jewish settlements and link them to Israel; expanding settlement activity in the Golan, the Jordan Valley, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip is a great mission; Israel reserves the right to send its army anywhere in order to fight the so-called terrorism—in other words, the national resistance of occupation; Israel considers the Golan a vital area for its own security and water resources and it will continue to impose Israeli sovereignty on it; and Jerusalem is Israel's unified capital and an indivisible city.

These are some of the outlines of Netanyahu's program. The question is: In view of this program, what future will the peace process have? On what issue can the Arabs negotiate with the Israelis at a time when the latter have allowed themselves to keep the Arab territories and build settlements on them, as well as strip the Palestinian people of their simplest legitimate rights, confiscate their lands, and turn them into armed Zionist settlements?

How can Syria negotiate with Israel at a time when the latter publicly announces its sovereignty over the occupied Golan and confiscates its water? Netanyahu is not just content with annexing Jerusalem, he also wants to annex the whole West Bank. He has even pledged to continue settlement activity in the Gaza Strip and send his army anywhere.

Netanyahu's program certainly entrenches the law of the jungle Israel has been pursuing since it was establishment. It is also an open war against the peace process, a flagrant coup against the U.S. initiative, and a blatant encroachment upon the resolutions of international legitimacy. Moreover, Netanyahu's program undermines all the international efforts exerted in the past years and dashes the hopes of all peoples which pinned high hopes on the establishment of a just, comprehensive, and stable peace in the Middle East.

The international community, which sponsored the peace process in the region and has made painstaking efforts for it, is duty-bound to confront Netanyahu's antipeace program and put deterrent pressure on Israel. Likewise, the Arabs, who responded sincerely to the U.S. initiative and committed themselves to the bases of the peace process in letter and spirit, are duty-bound to draw lessons, review their positions, and adopt a unified policy that will place the international community vis-a-vis its responsibilities and warn Israel that there will be no peace in the region without full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories—namely, the Golan, southern Lebanon, the West Bank, and Jerusalem—and also without Israel's acknowledgement of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state.

The Arabs agreed to exchange land for peace. However, they certainly will not exchange peace for Israel's aggressive and expansionist schemes and will not yield to Israel's haughtiness.

The Arab summit in Cairo will be a good start for joint Arab action. We hope that this joint action will be entrenched further. The Arabs have capabilities and resources which enable them to regain their rights and territories if they close their ranks and insist on confronting the challenges posed by the aggression.

Syria Expects Israeli 'Escalation' To Separate Tracks

MM1806130996 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jun 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Walid Shuqayr: "Damascus Expects Israeli Escalation To Separate Syrian and Lebanese Tracks"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut — Well-informed political sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that [Syrian] President Hafiz al-Asad has urged the need to safeguard internal stability in Lebanon and reinforce national coherence at this stage, in which the region is experiencing rapid developments and serious complications. He expects an Israeli escalation with Syria "that could take various forms with a view to separating the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in the peace negotiations."

The sources pointed out that al-Asad told Walid Junblatt, Lebanese refugee affairs minister and leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, when they met in Damascus the day before yesterday [16 Jun] that "what is being hatched against Syria and Lebanon at this stage prompts further Lebanese internal coherence and caution as regard the danger of the new Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's program." According to sources close to Junblatt, al- Asad also stressed "the need for Lebanon to retain and not abandon the card

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of resistance against the Israeli occupation, because it is the main support for Lebanon for the sake of recovering its territory."

The sources said that the Syrian president urged that the upcoming political and constitutional steps be conducted "in the framework of this internal coherence, which protects Lebanon against any potential developments." He urged all groups to participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections, on the grounds that these elections are an important step toward political stability pending transcendence of the difficult phase through which the region is passing.

The sources pointed out that "al-Asad made his statements after dwelling for a long time on regional developments, including the Israeli election results, the program of the new ruling team in Israel, Turkish-Syrian relations, Iranian-Syrian relations, and the situation in Lebanon as regards the south and internal developments."

The sources said the Syrian president "expressed his concern once again over Netanyahu's policy and orientations. He also expressed his feeling that matters could move toward an escalation by the Israeli side against Syria because its concept of peace differs from the new Israeli rulers' concept."

The sources said the Syrian side believes that "the Israeli escalation resulting from the complete violation of the foundations on the basis of which the peace process was launched could take various forms with a view to working to separate the Lebanese and Syrian tracks in the peace negotiations." [passage omitted]

Syria: Press Warns of 'Serious Consequences' of New Israeli Policy

JN1806061096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 18 Jun 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH comments on the policy statement of Binyamin Netanyahu's government, saying it clearly confirms rejection of a just and comprehensive peace that is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. The paper says Netanyahu defeated all wagers and illusions that the Zionist entity would honestly and seriously take part in the peace process.

Under the headline "For the Sake of Destiny, Existence," the paper says: Israel is still an aggressive, expansionist, and terrorist entity whose existence, ideology, and ambitions contradict peace, security, and stability in the Middle East. Israel plans to liquidate the peace process and return the Middle East — in coordination with Turkey — to a state of unprecedented chaos and tension.

AL-BA'TH says Israeli intentions are neither new nor surprising. They have not changed since the establishment of this entity. However, these intentions create crucial challenges for the Arabs at this stage in particular. These challenges threaten the Arabs' existence and future, especially given the fact that some Arabs are rushing to make peace with Israel.

AL-BA'TH adds: Therefore, the upcoming Arab summit is a good opportunity for the nation to reconsider its stands and calculations and to adopt measures that enable it to deal with those challenges to protect its existence and preserve its rights and interests. The paper concludes: Our nation is not an easy prey for any party that covets its land and usurps its rights. The battle between the Arabs and their enemies is now — more than ever — one of destiny and existence.

TISHRIN comments on the same issue. Under the headline "Hostility to Peace," TISHRIN says: The Netanyahu government's policy is based on the establishment of Israel's greater Torah state from the Euphrates to the Nile, through settlement activity and bringing in more Jewish immigrants.

The paper adds: The Netanyahu government's policy shows that practicing terrorism and suppression and launching wars in the region are the main guidelines of this government. These are also the principles on which Israel was established. The policy of the new Israeli Government did not refer to the peace process and its principles and foundations. It completely ignored the land-for- peace principle and the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and demanded a halt to negotiations with the Palestinians.

TISHRIN warns of the serious consequences of this Israeli policy for peace, security, and stability in the region and the world. The Netanyahu government's policy is based on hostility toward peace and is pushing the situation in the region toward an explosion.

Syria: Syrian Ambassador to Iran Reacts to Israel-Turkey Pact

LD1706175096 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 17, IRNA — Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan termed Tehran-Damascus ties as strategic, adding the two countries are studying measures to confront the Ankara-Tel Aviv military pact.

In an interview with the English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' printed Monday, the ambassador said Iran and Syria have major incentives and mutual interests to perpetuate their relationship, citing the

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existence of common enemies and the sharing of identical views on many regional and international issues.

Turning to the Ankara-Tel Aviv military accord, Al-Hasan expressed disappointment that a Muslim state signed such an accord with the Muslim enemy.

Stressing that the agreement is clearly aimed at Tehran and Damascus, he said Israel, with the help of Turkey, intended to weaken Iran and Syria, bring itself closer to Iranian borders, as well as put pressure on Syria in the north in order to get concessions in the south.

Asked about the policies declared by Israeli Prime Minister-Elect Benyamin Netanyahu who ruled out the return to Syria of the Golan Heights, he said there cannot be peace without a Zionist withdrawal from occupied Arab lands.

Underlining that the Israelis have to accept the idea of land for peace, he said Netanyahu is after peace for peace, which is quite senseless to the Syrians.

"Of course, one should see a difference between election campaign promises and the performance of the new Israeli leader in action," the ambassador emphasized.

On the Arab summit to be held in Cairo June 21-23, he said that during the meeting, 20 Arab leaders intend to make it clear to Israel that there cannot be peace in the Middle East without Israeli commitment to the principles of peace.

Al-Hasan reminded that the declarations of the new Israeli prime minister were contradictory to its obligations under the agreement reached at the madrid conference.

Terming the summit as positive, he noted this would support a comprehensive Middle East peace.

Touching on the visit last week to Damascus of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, he said that it was part of the regular consultations maintained between the two countries over various bilateral and regional issues.

The ambassador underlined the need for strategic allies to remain in touch all the time.

Syria: Army Buildup on Jordan, Turkey Borders Viewed

JN1806170796 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 19 Jun 96 p 5

[Report by the political editor: "Syrian Concentrations Along the Jordanian Border"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the 1980 crisis between Amman and Damascus, Syria deployed its troops toward the south, specifically toward al-Ramtha, in a muscle-flexing show to try to intimidate Jordan. A few days later, however, the troops withdrew and relations between Amman and Damascus became stronger than before.

Fifteen years later and amid tense relations between the two capitals — the likes of which has not been seen over the past 15 years — the first part of the scenario was repeated last week and the second part of the scenario is expected to be accomplished in the next week.

Last week, U.S. satellites monitored unusual movements along the Syrian-Jordanian border. These movements were represented by large-scale deployment of Syrian Army units toward Jordan. The U.S. Department of State disseminated this information through Western diplomatic and media channels, and the issue became the main topic in political circles in Amman and Damascus. This took place while we were on the threshold of a breakthrough in relations between the two capitals as a result of the Egyptian mediation and the results of the Cairo summit, which is expected to close Arab ranks.

Reports said that the Syrians denied that the deployment of their army units is designed to put pressure on Amman, noting that these movements are not directed against Jordan. The Syrians said these movements are part of a large-scale deployment of the Syrian Army on various fronts with its non-Arab neighbor, Turkey, in the wake of the tension resulting from the Israeli-Turkish military agreement.

Regardless, the first part of the scenario, which is similar to what took place in 1980, has been accomplished, and the second part of the scenario is expected to be accomplished next week in Cairo, when His Majesty King Husayn meets with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in a bilateral summit that will be held in the presence of the Egyptian president to cool the atmosphere between Amman and Damascus.

On the Syrian-Turkish front, indications are that the events that are taking place in an area between Turkey and Syria cannot be separated from the American and Israeli intervention. This intervention is aimed at humiliating the Syrians and forcing them, under threat of resorting to force, to accept the option of peace imposed by Israel and on Israel's terms. These terms, however, have changed as a result of the big shift in the balance of the political forces in Israel, represented by Netanyahu's election as prime minister. Netanyahu is known for his extremism and arrogance in his presentation of his concept of Israeli peace. Therefore, the Syrian-Turkish tension can only be linked with the Israeli realities. This time, however, the tension escalated after Syria deployed 40,000 soldiers, who make up 10 mechanized

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divisions, along the Turkish border with all their military hardware. The Syrian units are at a state of maximum alert to face any imminent Turkish military intervention.

Military reports from Syria reaffirm that the last five days have witnessed a huge Syrian military deployment, including hundreds of tanks and artillery and large number of infantry men: 40,000 soldiers. Damascus has also placed its advanced Air Force on alert. The pilots spend approximately 20 hours at the command post, ready to receive any urgent orders to take off either to carry out sudden attacks or to confront any possible Turkish offensive.

Reports say that the Syrian military command is holding round-the-clock meetings to assess the situation in the border area and that it believes what is taking place on the border reveals a Turkish-Israeli intention to clip the nails of the Syrians, who have gone too far, as Turkish and Israeli officials put it, in backing the Turkish opposition and maintaining a tough stand on the peace process. Both Turkey and Israel are trying to settle their scores with the Syrians.

According to Western reports, large forces were deployed on the Turkish front and that Israeli and Turkish espionage planes are conducting round-the-clock flights over the border with Syria.

Reports from Israel also say that the Turkish defense minister paid several secret visits to Israel to update hundreds of Turkish tanks and to purchase Israeli-made tanks. This, according to Western diplomats, will enable Israel and Turkey to expand their alliance by admitting Arab states; enlarging their military cooperation on ground, at sea, and in air; creating joint military industries; and exchanging intelligence information on these issues.

But how do the Syrians view this situation? Syria has known from the start that the aim is to make it bow to the Turkish-Israeli will. So, Syria is stepping up both its military and diplomatic campaign. This is clear in Syria's intelligent exploitation of Ankara's government crisis, which resulted from the failure of the Turkish parliamentary forces to form a coalition government. This, in turn, reflected on Turkey's domestic and external situations.

Therefore, Turkey, regardless of its losses, is trying to create an external problem to cover up its domestic problems. It believes that it should heat up the Syrian-Turkish front to meet Israel's desire to pressure Syria, which is reportedly backing the Kurdistan Workers' Party that opposes the Ankara regime.

In light of this, Syria believes in the need to end the Turkish- Israeli alliance by exploiting Turkey's domestic situation, urging Egypt to enter into alliances to counter the Turkish-Israeli alliance, and making the Cairo summit take a clear-cut position toward the Turkish-Israeli alliance and abort it.

Impairing ties between Damascus and Ankara to the point of a possible overall military confrontation will reshuffle the cards of the region and will resume the whirlpool of war.

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Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Dostam's Jonbesh-e Meli Against Fighting Kabul Regime

LD1706185496 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jonbesh-e Melli [National Movement] is not ready to fight against the Kabul government in a military alliance with the Taleban. This point was recently made by Mawlawi 'Abdol Baqi Torkestani, a spokesman of the Jonbesh-e Melli, in Islamabad. He said: The current Afghan crisis cannot be resolved by fighting but through intra Afghan talks. Therefore, a large meeting of the involved sides should be convened. He said that the meeting should appoint an authoritative commission to which Professor Rabbani would hand over power. Mawlawi 'Abdol Baqi Torkestani added that after the power transfer, the commission should form an interim government for six months with the consent and participation of all parties.

Afghanistan: Islamic Union Leader Meets With Iranian Official

LD1706211896 Tehran IRNA in English 2054 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, June 17, IRNA — In a meeting here today with the Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan, 'Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf, stressed that the current political crisis in his country should be solved at the negotiating table.

He underlined that peace will be restored in his country only through joint meetings of the different political factions and through solidarity of the Afghan people.

Referring to a U.S. call on some Afghan political leaders to visit Washington, Sayyaf termed it as an interference into the domestic affairs of his country and condemned the measures of the American administration.

He appreciated the big strides taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to restore peace and stability in Afghanistan and said that it is an Islamic duty upon the Afghan political leaders to safeguard the honour and glory of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan.

Borujerdi in reply, felt pleased over the warm cooperation of the Afghan Islamic government for his efforts to create peace and understanding among the various factions. He also underlined the need for preserving political independence in the Islamic countries based upon Islamic standards.

In continuation of Iran's endeavours to restore peace in strife-torn Afghanistan, the Iranian Foreign Ministry official arrived here at the head of a delegation on Saturday. [15 June]

Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Group Condemns U.S. Senator's Invitation

LD1806143096 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hekmatyar-led Islamic Party of Afghanistan [Hezb-e Eslami] has issued a statement in which American Senator Hank Brown is condemned for inviting Afghan leaders and personalities to attend a meeting. The meeting is planned for 25-27 June in America. Our correspondent reports from Islamabad that a statement from the Islamic Party of Afghanistan office described the American senator's act as a reaction against this party.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Chief Adviser Holds Talks With 'Arafat

BK1706162396 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh has reiterated its sincere and firm support for the formation of an independent Palestinian state. This was stated by Chief Adviser Mohammad Habibur Rahman while talking to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the Zia International Airport in Dhaka today. 'Arafat made a stopover in Dhaka on his way to China.

Briefing newsmen later, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan said that the chief adviser expressed the hope during his talks with 'Arafat that the peace process in the Middle East will continue, and it will reach a [words indistinct]. In reply, President 'Arafat expressed satisfaction over the firm support given by the people and the Government of Bangladesh to the cause of the Palestinians. The PLO leader said that he is holding extensive talks with Western leaders on the Middle East peace process.

Earlier on his arrival, the chief adviser accorded him a reception at the airport. Palestinian Ambassador Muhammad Shihada Za'rab was also present on the occasion. The chief adviser also apprised Mr. 'Arafat about the general elections held in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh: 'Last' 3 Senior Officers in Failed Coup Forced To Retire

BK1806114296 Hong Kong AFP in English 1137 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, June 18 (AFP) — The last three senior army officers implicated in last

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month's failed military revolt were forced to retire Tuesday, defence sources said.

They included Major General Ejaz Ahmed Chowdhury, head of the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles. The other two were Engineer-in-Chief Major General Gholam Quader and another brigadier, the sources said.

They were the last of the officers a military court of enquiry implicated in the May 20 revolt led by dismissed army chief and former lieutenant general Abu Saleh Muhammad Nasim.

The Defence Ministry Saturday said Nasim and six other officers linked to the May 20 failed revolt were dismissed and freed Friday after an enquiry despite being initially charged with treason.

Four others later implicated in the case were forced to retire.

The ministry said in a statement Nasim and the others were given the "minimum penalty" under the Army Act considering "the participation and role of the accused officers in the war of liberation" against Pakistan in 1971.

The revolt, which the ministry called an "abortive coup," was sparked when Biswas fired two senior army officers.

Nasim refused to implement the presidential order, saying that he had not been consulted about the firings as required by law.

Nasim, the first army chief to be sacked in Bangladesh's 25-year- old history, and four of the other six officers are decorated war veterans.

Bangladesh: 13 Ministers of Former BNP Government Lose Elections

BK1806121996 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 13 Jun 96 p 1 and 11

[Report by Saiful Alam]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bangladesh's Awami League [AL] is heading for a single majority in the parliamentary elections held yesterday in a peaceful atmosphere and amidst great enthusiasm. Unofficial results in 149 constituencies through 0400 this morning have been published. Out of this, the AL has emerged victorious in 77 seats, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] has won 55 seats, the Jatiya Party has received 14 seats, the Jamaat-i-Islami has won one seat, Islami Oikya Jote won one seat, and an independent candidate has bagged one seat. For the first time since its ouster from power in 1975, the AL is heading for a single majority in the parliamentary elections. The AL won 39 seats in the elections held in 1979, 76 seats in the 1986 elections, and 91 seats in the 1991 elections.

In these elections, AL President Sheikh Hasina, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Begum Raushan Ershad of the Jatiya Party, and A.S.M. Abdur Rab of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-Rab have been declared as winners.

The results show that 13 ministers of the former BNP government have lost the elections. They include: Abdus Salam Talukdar [former minister of local government, rural development, and cooperatives]; [former Agriculture Minister] Majidul Huq; [former Foreign Affairs Minister] Mustafizur Rahman; Khondaker Mosharraf Hussain [former minister of energy and mineral resources]; Tariqul Islam [former minister of post and telecommunications]; Rafiqul Islam Mian [former minister of works]; Abdul Mannan [former minister of state for civil aviation and tourism]; Keramat Ali [former minister without portfolio]; Mirza Abbas [former minister of land and public works]; Jahannara Begum [former minister of state for cultural affairs]; Mir Shawkat Ali [former minister of labor and manpower]; Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan [former minister of state for irrigation, flood control, and water resources]; and Shahjahan Seraj [former minister of state for shipping].

The presidium members of the AL who have lost the elections are Zohra Tajuddin, Amir Hossain Amu, and Mohiuddin Ahmed. The Jatiya Party presidium members who have lost the elections are Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, and Shah Moazzem Hossain.

The percentage of votes cast is expected to be very high. A joyous mood was prevailing, and the whole country wore a festive look yesterday on the occasion of the elections. The voters cast their votes freely and without any fear in favor of the candidates of their choice. The participation of female voters was much higher in comparison to any of the past elections. A total of nine persons were killed and several hundreds injured in election-related violence in different parts of the country. Among the dead, three were in Chittagong, one in Sylhet, one in Cox's Bazar, one in Sonagazi, and three were in Lakshmipur. According to reports received through 2330, it has been learned that elections were suspended at 55 polling centers throughout the country on different charges. The number of centers where polling has been suspended is likely to rise to 80.

Voters started gathering at the polling centers during the early morning yesterday. The lines in front of the polling centers became longer within a few hours. The participation of male and female voters was almost the same. Members of the Army, Bangladesh Rifles [border

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police], police, and paramilitary forces were deployed at the polling centers throughout the country with a view to maintain law and order. The Army was seen patrolling in Dhaka. The decision to impose a ban on the movement of autorickshaws, jeeps, microbuses, and motorcycles had a positive impact. The entire country wore a festive look yesterday.

In Sandwip, an AL worker named Ismail Hussain Bahar was killed during the voting by bullet wounds. One person named Mohammad Nasiruddin was killed in Boalkhali. In Sylhet, an AL worker was killed during clashes between the AL and the BNP. Reports of isolated incidents of election-related clashes have also been received from Barisal, Chittagong, Narsinghdi, Sylhet, Jessore, and Rangpur. [passage omitted]

India

India: Fate of Western Hostages in Kashmir 'Uncertain'

BK1806135096 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The fate of the four Western hostages held by a little known group in held-Kashmir remains uncertain. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has dissociated itself from this episode urging the group, Al-Faran, to release the hostages unconditionally.

Meanwhile, the British high commissioner in New Delhi has announced on behalf of the four countries, whose nationals are involved in hostage crisis, that the search for the four tourists has been suspended for the time being as they have found nothing to confirm or contradict a report that they might be dead. The statement made it clear that the four governments were working on the assumption that the four men in captivity were alive.

India: Maoists Use Rockets in Attacks on Bihar Police Stations

BK1606090296 Hong Kong AFP in English 1710 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI June 15 (AFP) — Maoist guerrillas fired rockets for the first time late Friday [14 June] to destroy two police stations in eastern India, killing three policemen and losing seven of their men, police said Saturday. [15 June]

Some 1,000 activists of the Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) simultaneously attacked the outlying stations in the state of Bihar with rockets, petrol bombs and automatic weapons, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Three members of the Bihar Military Police (BMP) were killed instantly in the daring attack. The outnumbered police fired back at the Maoists, killing at least seven of them, officials were quoted as saying.

The raid destroyed both police stations at Malwaria and Pandavpura in Palamu district of Bihar, India's most lawless state.

It was the first time Maoist guerrillas, known in India as Naxalites, used rockets against security forces. PTI said Bihar authorities had alerted all the police stations in the region against further attacks.

The MCC is one of the oldest Maoist groups in India. Maoist groups are most active in Bihar and the southern state of Andhra Pradesh.

India Gains ASEAN Regional Forum Membership, Needs Agenda

BK1506154996 Madras THE HINDU in English 15 Jun 96 p 10

[Article by S.D. Muni: "India's ARF Agenda"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was established in 1993 to cope with the uncertain and unfolding post-Cold War security situation in South-East Asia. India has been keen from the very beginning to seek participation in this forum. Now that its efforts have succeeded, consequent upon its acceptance as a full dialogue partner of ASEAN, it must draw up a purposeful agenda to engage constructively with the security issues of the Asia-Pacific region. In doing so, India's policy may have to take into cognisance three distinct characteristics of the ARF

First, ARF is not a unidimensional security forum concerned only with military threats, strategic doctrines, force structures and modern weapons. In the specific Asia-Pacific context, ARF endeavours for the "peace of the market place", where economic engagements provide cushions for security concerns. In this approach. Interaction is pursued at various official and unofficial (track-II) levels with a significant degree of cordiality and openness.

Participation in ARF will open for India new opportunities for strengthening economic cooperation with the Asian-Pacific countries. Such opportunities were denied to India partly due to the lack of dynamism on its part, but more so due to the Cold War mind set in South-East Asia which perceived India as a country shackled in subcontinental conflicts, obsolete economic approaches and an unacceptable strategic relationship (with the former Soviet Union). India can now set itself free from these shackles and demonstrate that it has the necessary

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will and capabilities to play a constructive role in wider Asian affairs. To adjust with the ARF style, the mandarins of South Block may have to shed a lot of their reservations and disdain, if not outright contempt, for the experts, opinion makers and activists, outside the official corridors.

Secondly, the US strategic presence is central to ARF, making global priorities and regional concerns deeply entangled with each other. With a 100,000 strong military presence, the U.S. is not seeking protection only of its trade and investment, but also of its dominant balancing role in the post-Cold War Asia-Pacific region. The rationale of containing the former Soviet Union, which legitimised this role has now been replaced by the anxieties regarding: i) China's growing military and economic power, ii) possibilities of conflicts in the Korean peninsula, South-China Sea or in the Straits of Taiwan, and iii) Japan seeking to acquire military muscle to back up its economic clout for an independent and assertive role in the region. The U.S. strategic policy makers and analysts are carefully scrutinising the implications of the renewed anti-U.S. warmth between China and Russia which may encourage China's assertiveness as well as North-Korean intransigence. The ultimate U.S. aim in the region is to reduce human and financial costs of its dominance without, in any way, diminishing its influence and hegemony. In this respect, the U.S. would want ARF to facilitate its strategic thrust in the region and accordingly, acquire necessary political motivation and military teeth to undertake measures "that might serve actually to constrain military forces and operations".

The ASEAN members constitute the core of ARF and they share a good deal of U.S. objectives in the region. And yet, ASEAN has its own styles and priorities. They are all worried about China's growing military power and tendency to use force, but they want to moderate China by tying it up in economic stakes. They want ARF to become an effective and sophisticated instrument of "containment through co-option". And in doing so, ARF must preserve its "Asian way". ASEAN members certainly want to avoid provoking China, while accepting that China is their major security concern. The ASEAN core of ARF values the importance of U.S. strategic presence in the region as a counter-weight to an aggressive China or a potentially ambitious Japan. Yet, for this, they are neither prepared to surrender their autonomy and resilience on the issues involved, nor would they like to see ARF turned into a mere U.S. surrogate.

The U.S. does not like all this, so much so that it is even encouraging alternate security fora for the Asia-Pacific region. The Council on Security Cooperation in Asia-Pacific (CSCAP) has been serving as an important track-II forum in this regard. More recently, the U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. William Perry's suggestions that APEC be open to defence debate and that a separate meeting of the region's Defence Ministers be convened, may be recalled here. These proposals have come in the aftermath of the crisis in the Taiwan Straits where ARF had no role to play. Much to its chagrin, the U.S. did not even get the expected endorsement of its "force projection" in the Taiwan Straits from the ASEAN members.

India has to tread cautiously in the cross currents of U.S.-ASEAN tensions in ARF. India has to bear in mind the hard reality of the U.S. strategic placement in the Asia-Pacific region and that there is no major conflict of interests between India and the U.S. The U.S., in fact, has been asking India to share its strategic concerns in the Asia-Pacific. Particularly so, regarding the challenge that China poses as an emerging Asian super power, and also regarding the prospects of instability and uncertainty that loom large in the Korean peninsula. The U.S. has tried to engage India in a discussion on these issues since the pursuance of the 1991-Kickleighter proposals for close military cooperation between the two countries. The trouble with the U.S. approach, however, is that it is not sensitive towards India's security concerns, either in relation to Pakistan and China or with regard to the issues of nuclear and missile capabilities. There are also problems in India closely identifying itself with the U.S. confrontationist stance towards China which may prove to be counter productive in the relaxed bilateral context of Sino-Indian relations. In relation to the Korean peninsula, India does not enjoy its status of the early Fifties to exercise a benign influence in defusing tensions, nor would it like to be a blind follower of the American line towards North Korea. It is therefore, in India's long term interest that ARF consolidates its "Asian" identity. The ASEAN resilient approach of constructive engagement towards China to deter it from pursuing an aggressive and expansionist course suits India's interest the most. India must also bear in mind that support for its ARF application came from ASEAN members.

The U.S. and its allies like Canada, Australia, (Keating regime) and Japan had reservations on India's membership. The U.S. not only wanted to use ARF membership as a lever to soften India's position on global non-proliferation issues like CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty], but also apprehended that India's presence in ARF might tilt the regional balance to its disadvantage.

ASEAN's support for India is based not one on its capability as a factor in China's containment and the

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ASEAN's autonomy in ARF vis-a-vis the U.S., but ASEAN is equally lured by India's emerging market potential as well as known assets like the reservoir of skilled but under-utilised manpower. In the overall economic and strategic context, an ASEAN-centred ARF is preferable for India than a U.S. dominated one.

The question of building a mutually productive economic and strategic relationship at the regional as well as bilateral levels constitutes the third part of India's ARF agenda. India needs to enhance its trade with the region and harness surplus investments. Within the ARF's security framework, India cannot hope to gain much ground in the highly competitive and dynamic region without radically improving its economic performance. There is also an urgent need for India to improve its poor image and poorer awareness in the region. In this regard, programmes of building institutional ties and efficient networking at various levels of social cultural and economic interactions deserve to be accorded policy priorities on a continuing basis.

Bilaterally, India has moved to expand areas of cooperation in economic as well as defence fields with the ASEAN members. Not only that, India has had military exercises with countries like Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia but it has also signed in 1993 an MoU [Memorandum of Understanding] on defence collaboration with Malaysia. Concrete progress in pursuing the identified areas of cooperation has, however, been slow. If carefully cultivated, the Asia-Pacific region can prove to be a rewarding market for India to shop for modern military technologies as well as for selling its defence goods and services. ASEAN is the most burgeoning arms market in Asia at present.

While pursuing its ARF agenda both at the regional and bilateral levels with the ASEAN members, India has to realise that there have been misgivings and apprehensions about India's military capabilities. India is also the only participant in ARF which is not a signatory to NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty] or any other nuclear restraint regime. There may be pressures on India to endorse the South-East Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone and possibly become a part of it. Even India's approach towards Pakistan will be expected to be compatible with the overall confidence-building and conflict-resolution culture of the Asia Pacific region. Any acquisition to its military capabilities may also raise eye-brows among its ARF colleagues. All this would call for an effective and persuasive articulation of India's security concerns and policies. If China and the U.S. can pursue their respective security policies, including nuclear stances, even when they are incompatible with the ARF framework, there is no reason why India cannot do so. Similarly, like the drives for military modernisation of ASEAN members, India can also explain its security challenges when going in for defence up gradation. It is a strong, confident and purposeful India that will evoke respect in the region. And for this, much would depend upon its political will, military capabilities and economic resilience at home.

India: Rao's Relative Arrested for Involvement in Urea Scam

BK1806151796 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] today arrested Prakash Chandra Yadav, son of the former fertilizer and chemicals minister, Mr. Ram Lakhaan Singh Yadav; and Sanjiva Rao, a relative of the former prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, for their alleged involvement in the 113 crore [rupees] urea scam. While Prakash Yadav was arrested in Delhi after several hours of interrogation, Sanjiva Rao was taken into custody in Hyderabad. CBI sources said both of them will be produced before the court tomorrow. Prakash Chandra Yadav was questioned twice last week and he had denied his involvement in the scam. The CBI then issued a fresh notice to him for interrogation today. Sources say Prabhakar Rao, son of Mr. Narasimha Rao, may be questioned again about his involvement in the scam.

Iran

Iran: Daily Commentary Belittles Clinton Over U.S. Sanctions

LD1706164596 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 15 Jun 96 p2

[Unattributed commentary entitled: "A Befitting Response From Europe Awaits Clinton"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On the personal initiative of US President Bill Clinton, the American House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee approved yesterday a bill that imposes US sanctions against foreign companies, investing in oil industries in Iran and Libya.

We still carry fresh memories that as a presidential candidate, Bill Clinton used to scoff at his predecessor's preoccupation with international issues at the expense of home affairs. As the first Democratic president in 12 years, Clinton did exactly the opposite of what he had promised his nation during the presidential elections and acted precisely like George Bush whom he used to keep under fire at the election campaigns.

By now it has become apparent that there could be no reliable connection between Clinton's rhetoric and his

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actions. At times even his party leaders confess that in foreign affairs Clinton simply confuses his own friends and encourages adversaries. Observers still remember that former Defence Secretary Dick Cheney dubbed Clinton "one of the least competent foreign policy leaders".

Last December, Clinton launched an anti-Iran movement, asking the American companies to cut commercial ties with the Islamic Republic. Last week Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh declared that "US sanctions against Iran have cost US companies two billion dollars in lost orders to supply oil field equipment".

If we were to go through the pages of history, the bitter fact that history repeats itself would readily come to our attention. It was the United States that used "freedom of trade" as a political weapon against Europe. The same is being done against its adversaries who are not ready to bow before its arrogant policy.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the resident of the White House vainly imagined the world's balance of power had tipped in favour of Washington. But a great disillusionment awaited the US and the fact surfaced during the Persian Gulf War in 1990 that Europe was not ready to be dictated by the American leaders.

In the case of embargo on Iran, Europe has already reacted with anger and continues its so-called "critical dialogue" with the Islamic Republic.

Recent developments demonstrate that the honeymoon period between Europe and America is approaching its end very much like what had happened between the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet dictator Stalin in 1947.

We are sure that Europe will follow its own interest rather than tread in the American footsteps. We are also sure that Europe will give a befitting response to Clinton's lack of vision.

Iran: Envoy to Bonn on EU-U.S. Policies

LD1806104596 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Jun 96 pp 1,3

[Unattributed article entitled: "Iranian Ambassador to Bonn: Iran's Problems With Europe Stem From United States"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt]

Introduction:

Since the Islamic revolution victory in Iran, the country has been the target of an unprecedented onslaught of waves of terrorism and propaganda. Those who incurred the heaviest losses in the wake of the 1357 [February 1979] Islamic revolution have become the most hostile against this revolutionary government and the nation. The United States is the standard bearer of this hostility; and Britain continues its policy of divide and rule. Other Western governments and international forums, sometimes deliberately and often inadvertently, follow this sinister affair.

In response to this stance by the West and Europe, Iran has adopted its own independent policy. Thanks to this policy, our revolutionary state has gradually learned to guard itself against aftershocks of the fluctuating Western decisions and their adverse climate. The U.S. interference has created problems for Iran's relations with Europe, but as time passes Europe becomes more realistic and adopts a more independent policy.

At any rate, any European state which desires to improve ties with Iran should convince Tehran that it is independent from Washington. In this respect, and in connection with the negative publicity campaign of America, Britain, and the Zionists, Mr. Hoseyn Musavian, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Bonn, has been interviewed by the German daily GENERAL AUZEIGER. We present a translation of this interview to our readers.

[GENERAL AUZEIGER] The Iranian Government has recently threatened to retaliate for the measures undertaken against Fallahian. Is Iran still determined to carry out this threat?

[Musavian] Our legal experts are studying the possibility of adopting a retaliatory measure. Of course, the political apparatus, including the cabinet and the Majles, is investigating the political dimensions of the issue. However, no final decision has yet been made to make it an official legal matter.

[GENERAL AUZEIGER] Your relations with the European countries are not so desirable. Are you still eager to maintain relations with these countries?

[Musavian] We are eager to maintain these relations if the Europeans are eager to reciprocate. We do not want and are not interested in one-sided ties. Iran does have problems in its ties with Europe, a considerable part of which stem from America's interference. The more Europe manages to maintain its independence in its relations with Iran, and on the regional issues, the greater its chance of improving ties with Iran.

[GENERAL AUZEIGER] How do you evaluate relations between Tehran and Bonn?

[Musavian] My evaluation of these relations is neither good nor bad. The relations are not bad, because compared to the other European countries these ties are

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more moderate. I am not evaluating our ties as being good, because the U.S. pressure has deprived Germany of the potential expansion of these ties. To put it bluntly, Germany has surrendered to U.S. demands.

[GENERAL AUZEIGER] To what extent has Mr. Fallahian's case influenced relations between Tehran and Bonn?

[Musavian] To a very considerable extent.

[GENERAL AUZEIGER] Let us talk about the reason behind these problems. The Western press often writes about the link between your country and international terrorism. Why is your country so eager to destabilize Israel?

[Musavian] I would like to answer your question on terrorism first. We have come to the conclusion that in essence neither Europe nor the rest of the Western world are concerned about terrorism. They are not really serious about this issue. We have also come to the conclusion that a political decision is taken in the West to continue these propaganda against Iran. In practice the West is neither concerned nor serious on this issue. On the contrary, whenever we have proposed to discuss the issue seriously, the West has avoided the subject. This is because they realize that they might be accused of supporting terrorism. The reason for my assertion is that in the year 1371 [21 March 1992 to 20 March 1993] the European Community's foreign ministers approved to hold critical talks with Iran on the issue of terrorism. To test the sincerity of the Europeans on this matter, a year later on behalf of Iran's president [Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani] we wrote a letter to each leader of the European Community members, including Chancellor Kohl of Germany. In that letter we said that we condemned terrorism, and in order to remove any doubts we proposed that Iran and the EU should jointly condemn terrorism everywhere in the world and should fight against it. When we reached this stage, the Europeans retreated. [passage omitted]

[GENERAL AUZEIGER] Is your country ready to continue this critical negotiation about all forms of terrorism in the future too?

[Musavian] Of course, there is no problem. If the Europeans are ready we are completely ready too. However, we doubt if the Europeans will be willing to put an end to their double standards.

Concerning destabilization of the Zionist regime, about which you asked in another part of your question, I want to say that we do not recognize the Zionist regime officially. Accusations levelled against us, such as that Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the combatant groups of the occupied territory have bases in Iran and that Iran gives them military training, are utterly untrue. The Europeans are not even prepared to investigate the issue, because if the issue were investigated seriously, it would reveal that the financial sources that are supporting these groups are in London, Washington and Bonn. That is to say, money is being collected from these countries for them [resistance groups] as well as [provided] by a number of Arab countries which are very dear to the Western countries.

[GENERAL AUZEIGER] It was recently reported by the British media that one of the centers for organizing international terrorism is located inside the Iranian embassy in Bonn. Could you explain this please?

[Musavian] It is quite natural to see that the British and the Americans, for historical and traditional reasons, strive to strain relations between Iran and Germany. This cannot be denied. They have influenced our region for a long period in history. They cannot tolerate an independent Iran. If what the British media are alleging was true, I should have heard of it during the past six years that I have been working here, or at least the German Government should have raised the issue once to complain. Whereas, during the past six years, not even once has the issue been raised in our formal talks with German officials. I am not surprised to hear of the wicked deeds of the British media. I know what they wish to achieve. However, I am surprised to see the German press is misled.

[GENERAL AUZEIGER] When one speaks to the Iranian opposition — opponents—outside the country, they all say they feel that they are spied on to a large extent by the Iranian intelligence and security machinery. What is your opinion about this?

[Musavian] We have no worries about the opposition so we do not need to spy on them. This would apply to a country that has a powerful opposition. Fortunately, our opposition does not even enjoy a one-percent influence or strength in Iran. It is, therefore, completely worthless as far as we are concerned. It is not worth our while to invest in spying on them.

If the opposition claims that they enjoy the support of the Iranian people, we say to them: If you think you have a base in Iran, go back and receive your welcome there. Why are you sitting around here?! The opposition wishes to make itself appear important to Western public opinion with these ploys.

Of course, I do not see the opposition in the same way as you do here. Apart from the hypocrites [reference to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], which have an official policy of terrorism and military activity, almost all the other opposition groups have contacts with us.

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I can say decisively that 98 percent of the Iranians living in Germany both have good relations with us and frequently visit Iran, and there are no problems regarding this.

[GENERAL AUZEIGER] Another question regarding terrorism has come to my mind. It was said about Rabin's assassination that it was a divine gift. Was this a correct thing to say?

[Musavian] There is no doubt that it was misinterpreted. You, the Western press, are guilty of misinterpreting Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks.

[GENERAL AUZEIGER] Can you give us the correct interpretation of his remarks?

[Musavian] In his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: "This same man who was assassinated by a Jew was someone who not only expressed pleasure about the assassination of a Palestinian leader, but the government of the Zionist regime also accepted responsibility for that assassination of the Palestinian." He said: "Assassination is not a suitable way of achieving one's aims, and if someone supports terrorism or expresses pleasure about it, he will suffer its consequences himself. This is divine retribution for someone who supports terrorism."

However, I have a question to put to German public opinion and the country's officials. Something was mistakenly reported by the Western press and it caused an earthquake here, as if a terrifying incident had occurred. But in Iran, the president, the prime minister, the head of the judiciary, over 50 Majles deputies and five or six cabinet ministers were assassinated, and in the case of all these assassinations, the Zionist regime supported the terrorists and expressed its pleasure. Unfortunately, your country's officials and parliament not only did not even convey simple condolences to us, not only did they not condemn these assassinations, but not a single statement was issued by your federal assembly nor the slightest protest made to the Zionist regime asking them why they supported the assassination of Iranian leaders. This is a blatant imposition of double standards which has meant that when the German parliament speaks to us about terrorism, we can only laugh, because we have 15 years of experience in seeing how your politicians behave. There have been thousands of acts of terrorism in Iran and you have not condemned a single one. Some of your parliamentary deputies, who are known to us, even have meetings with the hypocrites who sit on the central committee of terrorism. Therefore, if we are to fight terrorism, many of them will be in trouble.

[GENERAL AUZEIGER] The German Government particularly wants to see an improvement in the current cold climate, to bring about some movement. Salman Rushdie's name and the cancellation of the fatwa have been raised in this regard. Do you think there is any possibility of this?

[Musavian] Bonn knows at the moment that we have taken a step regarding this and also that the European Union cannot tackle London. The European Union conveyed a statement in the form of a "demarche" to us concerning the Rushdie issue: First, that Iran must announce that it will not send anyone to kill Rushdie; second, that it will adhere to international regulations; third, that it will condemn terrorism in any form.

These three points were officially conveyed to us. The Iranian president, for his part, announced Iran's agreement and positive opinion on this in the presence of 100 foreign reporters in New Delhi, because these things are in keeping with Iran's foreign policy. However, as soon as Iran declared its willingness, from that day onwards, the British started their mischief again and they have been blocking everything. Now, too, one of the things being said in the European Union is that the British are applying the "mad cow" issue to Rushdie; that is, just as they did in the case of the "mad cow" problem, the British are now vetoing the Europeans' agreement on the resolution of the Rushdie issue. Rushdie, who is smitten with mad cow disease himself — now the resolution of his problem is becoming difficult as well.

[GENERAL AUZEIGER] I have a question about bilateral relations. Do you see any possibility of a meeting between the German and Iranian foreign ministers? I mean, of course, outside the framework of the normal international meetings, such as the ones at the United Nations.

[Musavian] Mr. Kinkel has officially announced that he would like to visit Tehran, international media have reported this, and we have welcomed it. However, it all depends to what extent Bonn fears the United States and Israel. If it is afraid, there is not much of a possibility; but if he acts independently, we will welcome this.

Iran: German Firms 'Unperturbed' by U.S. Sanctions

LD1806130396 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, June 18, IRNA — German firms, unperturbed by the U.S. sanctions threat, appear set to become big suppliers to Iran's oil and gas projects that in turn offers huge mutual incentives for both countries.

The recent agreement by a 42-strong German bank consortium to provide "unlimited long term loans" to Iran for financing projects under its second five-year

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plan represents a long-awaited breakthrough once it is underwritten.

According to Energy Compass Faxfile, Germany's state export guarantee agency, Hermes, is on the point of massively expanding its medium term cover on trade with Iran within the next few weeks, despite U.S. political pressure.

The awaited decision follows an agreement in February from another German banking group to provide loans worth dlrs. 700 million for Tehran-based banks, while other talks are in progress on credits for the Iranian central bank.

Energy Compass suggested the importance of the finance is that although the banks are not lending directly to oil projects, many Iranian oil industry suppliers and service companies will be able to secure the technology inputs required from German contractors.

The loan program, it said, would be a massive boost for the national Iranian oil company advocating a go-it-alone approach to oil field development and provide a means to hold out against a return to production-sharing deals or other risk-reward schemes.

Iranian firms, such as Peteco, would be able to fully participate in the offshore field development program, while Germany will mainly benefit by becoming a large supplier of equipment and chemicals to Nioc and its partners.

German engineering companies are already engaged in Iran's refinery program with steel giant Thyssen managing the expansion of Isfahan plant and supplying other construction projects, including Arak and Bandar Abbas.

Energy Compass said it had been told Siemens was also supplying much of the electrical installation required, including turbines, and that another leading German company was working on injection programs for Gachsaran, Bibi Hakimeh and Rag Sefid oil fields with local private company, Tehran Janoob.

In the longer term , it suggested that Germany, which already exports three times as much as any if its industrial rivals to Iran, may even have bigger ambitions in securing a strategic 'energy partnership.'

Opportunities include offshore projects opened up for investment, which oil and chemical giant Veba, Wintershall and explorer Deminex are said to be examining.

On the Iranian side, one goal could be the expansion of oil sales, where access was restricted last year to supplying Germany with just 1.5 m tonnes out of a total 108.7 m imported due to the dominance of foreign firms in the market, including U.S. Majors.

With the ending of the Cold War, Energy Compass suggested in its analysis that Germany was seeing an emergence of political leaders attempting to assert foreign policy in the Middle East centered on trade relationships.

But in doing so, it believed Bonn had put itself on a collision course with the U.S. by leading European opposition to sanctions and threatening retaliatory policies against a proposed U.S. blacklist of companies trading with Iran.

Iran: Editorial Views Lack of European Support for U.S. Policies

LD1806192496 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Jun 96 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Europe — Triumph of Open Opposition to the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. hostility toward and persistence in fighting the Islamic Republic of Iran encountered a threatening reaction from the EC recently. In the past, the United States hoped that the world community would accept outright any decision it made or any policy it adopted against Iran and blindly follow U.S. policies. However, when it has come for action, U.S. policies have encountered a cold reaction and opposition from the world community. Even America's closest allies have preferred to go their own way for now, at least in this matter.

Nevertheless, it should not be overlooked that opposition to U.S. policies is not confined to issues involving Iran alone. There exists a wide spectrum of disputes between Europe and America which has added gradually to the list of disputed issues. NATO, the European armed forces, NATO's management and command and their minutest details, commercial issues, monetary issues and so forth are on the long list of U.S.-European disputes. Europe is trying to harness and gradually remove the conditions resulting from the Cold War period. One must not forget that during the Cold War Washington acted as the main axis of the West's defense system against the Eastern Bloc and, within the context of NATO, gave itself the sole right to make all decisions in the matter. But today, even Washington's European allies are feeling cheated about it and have realized that their free actions and free vote have been strongly overshadowed by the United States in their dealings with Washington.

This clearly means that even Europe is fed up with the dictatorial U.S. approach to its relationships and insists on correcting or changing that improper trend. Similar cases have existed in the scope of relations between

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the United States and Japan, China, South Korea, and so forth in recent months and years, which show the wave of protest and opposition to America's dictatorial approach to force other countries to accept and obey blindly U.S. policies.

The essence of that stance and the conclusions drawn from that gradual trend could be that the world, even Washington's allies, is no longer willing to accept a U.S. role as leader. They strongly believe that the United States has repeatedly misused its role in dealings with other countries; that it basically lacks the status and the necessary qualifications to play that role.

The United States tried to make out that its differences of opinion with Iran were global and make other countries join in the opposition against the Islamic Republic of Iran; it could not. When imposing trade and oil sanctions against Iran, Washington expected others to obey Clinton's uncalculated and rash orders and ultimately turn their back on their economic, commercial, and industrial ties with Iran. Of course, the world community did not accept the proposal for such an unwise move but, instead of wising up and withdrawing its comments, the United States resorted to threatening its allies. Today, it can see that Clinton's spiteful actions have resulted in the formation of a new front in Europe against Washington's policies. The open opposition has made matters worse for America to the extent that new conditions have evolved in Europe today and some countries are trying hard to take advantage of the new atmosphere to put forward their viewpoints and wishes of the past few decades [Cold War]. They want to make the United States realize that Washington's ruling days are over and that the United States must recognize Europe's wishes. No one is prepared to accept America's role as leader any more and even Europe is trying to establish and guarantee an independent and secure status for itself.

That is the biggest U.S. loss from Clionton's rash and spiteful policies and those of his Zionist accomplices. Today, even in the West, there is talk of the necessity for a new strategic plan which would define a new order but would never repeat Washington's unprincipled demands for the acceptance of U.S. world order. The first principle of such a proposal, that is U.S. leadership of the world community, has been totally rejected.

Iran: Bahraini Dissident on Anti-Iranian Propaganda

NC1806161996 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Jun 96 p 16

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Mansur al-Jamri, one of the Bahraini opposition leaders, announced that the Manama government's claims that it discovered and identified a subversive network in this shaykhdom, which sought to topple the government, is completely baseless.

He said: Such allegations are devoid of any veracity and the Bahraini Government is seeking to compensate for its inability to ensure the rightful demands of the people of the country and has resorted to disseminating blatant falsehoods.

Dr. Mansur al-Jamri added: The Bahraini security forces use various pretexts to link the opponents of the government to unknown organizations, in order to arrest a large number of people daily and send them to prison.

This leader of the opponents of the Manama government recalled that the Bahraini Government forced some prominent Bahraini personalities and leaders to attend rigged government sessions and give the impression — one way or the other — that these individuals support the suppression of the Bahraini people.

The opposition leader rejected as preposterous the claims by some Manama officials that a group of youths used two machine guns and some grenades in order to stage a coup d'etat and an armed uprising against the government.

He said that the person who has been identified as the culprit is named Shaykh 'Ali al-Mutawwa, while the Bahraini officials have mentioned him as Shaykh 'Ali al'Mutaqavi, and this in itself indicates that the arrested ones were made to read statements dictated by the Bahraini officials as their confessions.

He said that the allegations by the Bahraini regime in this regard constitute the greatest lies in the history of Bahrain. Referring to U.S. efforts to bolster the impression among regional public opinion that there is a plot against the Bahraini Government, he said: We deeply regret that the Bahraini people are being victimized for regional and international politics.

He stated: The objective of the Manama government in disseminating anti-Iranian propaganda is solely aimed at eliciting the approval of the United States and the Zionist regime.

Iran: Daily—'Washington's Guillotine' Sharpened for Afghanistan

LD1706175396 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian 13 Jun 96 p 2

[Unattributed editorial: "Washington's Guillotine Is Sharpened for Afghanistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the Middle East developments and the prescription of the Dayton agreement for

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the Balkan problem, U.S. attention has turned to the Afghan problem.

Afghanistan is a country in which the meaning of the word tranquillity is forgotten, and so far no ray of hope is in sight on its dark horizon. Now, the Americans have decided to hold a conference and determine the fate of Afghanistan.

At a time when American diplomacy on Afghanistan was to follow its regional friends and contacts such as Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, some people thought it would be possible to find an internal or possibly a regional solution to the Afghan problem to prevent Washington's direct involvement in Afghanistan.

Not only did the Afghans not accept any peace plan, but the regional plans also failed to unite more then two groups at a time and even then only for a short time.

One of the main reasons for the failure of these plans was the inability to control the entry of weapons into the country. Naturally, when weapons are available those who can afford it want to have more.

The emergence of the Taleban is the most obvious example of the failure of [peace] plans. Although Pakistan has made its position stronger in Afghanistan through this [supporting the Taleban group], however, it was enabled to bring any fundamental change in the process [planned by the Taleban] to capture Kabul.

The U.S. sponsored international conference on Afghanistan is expected to have the backing of public opinion and is aimed at determining the role of the countries in the region involved in Afghanistan.

Now, the Americans need Afghanistan because they want to have control over the Central Asian market up to Chinese borders. They [Americans] are unhappy about the European activity in this region.

The main aim of the conference is to control the entry of weapons and to establish a power structure in Afghanistan. Therefore, the United States will try to design an executive framework for this purpose and to punish those countries which supply weapons to the Afghans.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will not object to the plan. Russia too will take part and will remain silent, especially because they are extremely concerned about offensives by Afghans on Tajikistan's borders, and their expansion toward Uzbekistan.

If any Afghan group disagrees with the plan, it will lose its economic and military resources, and in Afghanistan, being without weapons means you are dead.

However, those countries that are supporting the Afghan groups which are against the plan will be treated as countries that are opposing peace and supporting war and fratricide.

In Kabul too, there is a belief that a U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf is not in the interest of its western neighbor [Iran]. The situation is becoming more dangerous when Israel is present in Turkey, Iraq is about to come out of isolation, and Syria is dragged into a crossroad of decision-making [sentenced as published].

Afghanistan was considered as a sensitive region for the United States but the time was not appropriate to give it serious thought; it seems that now the time is right. Afghanistan is a whirlpool that has claimed many victims. Oslo and Dayton's guillotine is sharpened for Afghanistan.

Iran: Inaugural Afghan 'Balkh Air' Flight Arrives in Mashhad

LD1706205296 Tehran IRNA in English 2043 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), June 17, IRNA — 'Balkh Air' started its inaugural flight on Monday [17 June] with the landing at the airport here of a B.H.-111 aircraft from the the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i Sharif.

Balkh Air was recently established in Mazar-i Sharif by the National Islamic Movement of General Abdol-Rashid Dostam. A delegation from the airline arrived for talks with Iranian officials here on Saturday. [15 June]

Technical manager of Mashhad airport Seyyed Hussein Ahmadi-Zadeh told IRNA that the airliner which carried 52 passengers on board, left Mashhad airport Monday noon. The B.H.-111 aircraft is designed to carry 75 passengers.

Balkh is the third regional airline to emerge in Afghanistan in recent years following the weakening of central authority. The other two are 'Khaiber Air' run by the Jalalabad-based council, and the 'Taleban Airways Company' of the Taleban millitia.

Iran: Commentary Calls For End of State of Emergency in Algeria

LD1406180896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In its latest report on domestic issues, the human rights organization in Algeria called for the cancellation of the emergency state. According to the report, the imposed emergency state, from 1992, has given a lot of authority to the Algerian security forces.

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The reports, which was handed over to the Algerian president, Liamine Zeroual, noted the security forces taking advantage of their authority and the mysterious death of 33 prisoners.

After the cancellation of the Algerian parliamentary elections in 1992, in which the Islamic Salvation Front came out victorious with the maximum number of votes, Algeria entered the phase of domestic crisis, leading to 40,000 deaths. The actions were taken by the reigning regime and with the cooperation of the military forces, aiming to prevent the Islamists from coming to power and halting their activities. The regime, especially the military forces, thought that by following hostile policies they could crush the Islamists as well as curbing the domestic state.

However, the domestic state of Algeria shows that after the passage of four years, the policies were not successful. Although it was expected that after the victory of Liamine Zeroual in the elections of 16 November 1995, he could improve the state of the country by following a logical policy of holding negotiations with the opposition, but after a while, following the double-faced policy of crushing the opposition and negotiating with them, Liamine Zeroual was proved to be willing to maintain the authority of the military on the Algerian state. This state led to developments and violence in Algeria. Meanwhile, the domestic conditions and the Algerian unsuitable state shows that the only way to establish tranquillity and curb the domestic crisis is for the government of Algeria to hold talks with all the opposition groups. Only military actions and leaning on violence under the shadow of emergency state cannot solve the Algerian domestic crisis.

Iran: Khamene'i Addresses Majles Deputies

LD1806174096 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Jun 96

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to the deputies of the newly elected fifth Majles in Tehran on 18 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. [passage omitted]

The fifth Majles was formed under conditions in which, more than ever before, the enemies of this nation have intensified their propaganda attacks and were intent — and still are intent — on weakening the Islamic Republic through their various ploys and tricks. Their wish was that this Majles would not be able to convene at the specified time. They were also hoping for a low turnout in the elections and were looking for an election process afflicted with disputes and clashes among the people, officials, and the supporters of famous personalities. Furthermore, they wanted the country's conditions to deteriorate because of the elections and were wishing for an atmosphere of enmity that would mar people's vision and insight. These were the wishes of the enemy. [passage omitted]

Today, praise be to God, the new Majles has been formed. From what I know about the internal affairs of the present Majles, it is clear that all the esteemed brothers and sisters in the Majles are well aware of the country's priorities and the nation's needs. They are also fully aware of their grave responsibilities, which are often more important than mere legislation. These responsibilities include the safeguarding of the integrity of this nation and its revolution, and also preserving all the features that are essential for the country's proud and strong presence on the international arena.

God be thanked, the approval of the deputies' credentials is proceeding well, or is about to finish and the serious task of the Majles will soon begin, God willing. The sooner it begins the better because the people are waiting for you to get on with it.

What is important for us to tell you — even though you have heard this before and even though, thank God, you are all alert to and have an understanding of Islamic teachings — what I should still like to say to you is that in carrying out your duties as deputies, you are going through a test. Everything that happens during the life of a religious person is a test — from the small events that take place in your homes, your workplaces, or among your friends and, generally, in your day-to-day lives, to those greater events, fundamental works, useful agreements or effective remarks that may come out of the Majles. All these are tests to be passed. [passage omitted]

The basis of religious understanding and identity in relationship to the life of individuals is that if individuals are able to pass these tests, they will become prosperous and will receive salvation. If, God forbid, we fail these tests, we will end up as losers. There is only a fleeting moment between salvation and fall which hinges on the resolve, endeavors, and hopes of individuals. This is how you should regard the position of a Majles deputy and important and sensational events in society. This is how you should regard reputations and office, assignments and the wealth of the world, social strength and popular influence. All these things should be seen as tests. [passage omitted]

My dear ones, if you carry out your duties with this thought in mind, then our Majles will be a successful one; our country will progress; our path will be a

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straight and bright one; our objectives, even our world objectives, will be fulfilled. [passage omitted]

You should struggle for the sake of God and the almighty will, in turn, show you the right path.

This life will end one day. One may live for 50 years, 60 or 70 years. Some live longer, some shorter. It will pass like a flash of lightning. The position of responsibility will end sooner than life. Up to yesterday there were others sitting in this Majles, it is your turn today, and tomorrow there will be different deputies. This short space of time in the position of responsibility is not worth abandoning our religious duties. This is the essence of what I am trying to tell you.

Praise be to God, this Majles is a good Majles. When I look at the Majles's composition, I can see that our previous terms of the Majles were generally or mainly the same. It is a good Majles and a good composition of deputies have sat around here. They are believers from the midst of the middle class. They have no affiliation with the aristocracy. They are not following unhealthy political doctrines.

I do not wish to say that the existing political factions among our brothers and sisters are some sort of gang-up. Well, each faction has its slogans and pursues certain policies. However, if you look at them more carefully, you will realize that they are the same. They all pursue the same objective. They all think alike. It is very, very rare to find individuals among the deputies who pursue other objectives. I think it is far-fetched to imagine even such individuals exist in this Majles. Praise be to God, this Majles is a good Majles.

Throughout the parliamentary history of this nation, the true Majles was experienced by the nation after the [Islamic] revolution. Before that, the parliament was not a true Majles, except in two or three terms. [passage omitted] Today the deputies truly represent the people. No one can say that there are individuals in this Majles who are not in favor of implementation of the Islamic laws in this country. I do not think so. Even the representatives of the religious minorities, who in their personal belief do not believe in the sacred religion of Islam, have accepted the Islamic Republic. The Islamic Republic means a set of Islamic instructions. They work towards the implementation of these instructions too.

No one in this Majles is against reconstruction of this country through proper Islamic means and independently. No one is against uprooting poverty from the midst of the people. No one is against creation of comfort for the people. However, in the Majles of the pre-revolution era there were individuals who only thought of their own interests. They used to say: To me the important objectives are to line my own pockets with money; to protect my own land and to secure my own interests. I do not care what happens to the people. I do not care if Iran is inundated under water. I do not care if all the houses are demolished. I do not care if thousands die of starvation.

Nothing was important to them. Whereas in the post-revolution Majles, in the Islamic Majles, such thoughts never enter anybody's mind. We can conclude, therefore, that all the deputies pursue the same objectives.

It is important that I should remind you dear brothers and sisters that today you enjoy a certain authority which you lacked before being elected as Majles deputies. In other words, you now have the authority to legislate, which is your main responsibility. Of course, the Majles has other duties and responsibilities, as stipulated by the constitution; that is to say supervision over what the government does, approving ministers, etc. However, your most important duty is to legislate. [passage omitted]

If an economic, cultural, or political problem should prove very harmful to the nation and Islam, or if it impedes the movement of our people towards their ultimate lofty objectives, then it is up to you to provide suitable solutions. If you refrain from passing the appropriate laws, then the government can sit idle and say that it is powerless to do anything. Of course, our government would never act in this way, because it is intent on helping and supporting the Majles and, by all its bills and proposals, in fact it provides the Majles with a suitable working agenda.

Praise be to God, our government today is capable and efficient. The government officials, furthermore, are caring individuals. I want to repeat here that in the entire history of Iran, we have never had such a good collection of ministers, and our nation has never before enjoyed the service of such a good group of individuals.

Thoughout the entire history of Iran, our executive power has never been led by someone enjoying as much support and admiration as our present president. This is one of the realities of our country today. If our president was not an efficient and capable person, if he did not acknowledge all his responsibilities, if he lacked religious insight and if he was someone who had not fought for the sake of God, then all the good legislation by the Majles would have been totally futile. There is no point in having laws if there is no one to implement them. In other words, the presence of a good executive power is like enjoying strong muscles.

It is up to you to show the way and set the pace. This is what an Islamic Majles is all about. As I said

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in my earlier message to you, each minute of your time is extremely valuable. You must not waste even one second of the Majles time, whether in the various committees or in the Majles chamber proper. [passage omitted]

Some deputies might propose a bill to the Majles just to please the people of their constituencies. To pass such a bill may be beyond the capabilities of the Majles, because of budget shortage or because it is not part of the government plan. For instance, they might propose building something somewhere. It is below the dignity of a deputy to seek popularity by resorting to such measures. And if you wish to be successful, you must be independent and free. This was one of the reasons I opposed the participation of cabinet ministers in the [Majles] elections. Of course there were other reasons too, but one of the reasons was the one I mentioned.

Various political factions should participate in the elections. They should also participate in all affairs of the country. No affairs of the state hold a monopoly of a certain stratum, of a particular ideology, or a particular political faction. Everyone must take part. We have learned by experience that this is in the interest of the country and its progress. This was the reason we encouraged different political factions to compete in the elections. It will always be the same. We will also encourage different political factions to enter the social arena. However, we strictly banned cabinet ministers, saying: Ministers are not permitted to take part. The reason is that we believe the executive authority should not interfere in the affairs of the legislative authority. Both of them work on the same front for the country, but they perform two different tasks. It is not possible for the referee to be a player at the same time. It is not possible for the policymaker to implement the same policies. This is not possible.

When we say the Majles deputies should be independent, we mean they should judge for themselves. Of course, they should ask the experts to help them. Such experts exist in the ministries, in the universities and in the Majles itself. Praise be to God, we are not short of experts today. [passage omitted]

If the Majles is a body in which the deputies think for themselves, in which the committees think for themselves, make decisions and then insist on carrying them out — carrying the government behind them — then it will be an effective Majles that will be able to run the country in the best possible way. This is something we have said repeatedly to the brother and sister deputies, and we are now saying it to you.

Of course, as I said, government officials are, fortunately, very sympathetic officials. They care. They act on the basis of a sense of duty. There are people among the ministers who — my guess is, with every action they do, they first stop and think whether it will please God or not. This is the kind of minister we have today, God be praised. This is the kind of government we have. The president's qualities, of course, speak for themselves. He is a religious, learned man, struggling in the path of God, with complete competence regarding the affairs of the country, experienced. All this goes without saying as far as the head of the government is concerned. Every single one of our ministers, God be praised, enjoys such great qualities. You, however, are representatives of the people. Your dignity and status must be in line with what is expected of you.

At any rate, you must trust in God and Exalted God will, hopefully, make your tasks easier. You must increase this unity and solidarity that exists in the Majles with every passing day. If it comes to pass that, at the end of this term, these political factions, which now imagine they have some differences, reach the conclusion that they do not have any differences at all and are good friends, you should know that you have made a great gain; both you and the country. [passage omitted]

Iran: Governing Boards of 3 Majles Commissions Elected

LD1806185796 Tehran IRNA in English 1733 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA — Members of governing boards of another three commissions of the Majles were elected Tuesday [18 June].

They were Seyyed Morteza Nabavi, Mahmud Astaneh, Asadollah Razavi, Hasan Shakhes, Mohammad Reza Khabbas and Habibollah Rashidi, with the economy, finance and cooperatives commission of the Majles.

'Abdolghaffar Shoja, Gholam 'Abbas 'Ali-Khani, Enayatollah Tourang, Hematollah Beyg Moradi, Shamshun Maqsud Pur-Sayr and Ahmad Naseri-Gohar with the agriculture and rural development commission.

Mohammad-'Ali Sheykh, Seyyed Mohammad Reza Milani Hoseyni, 'Ali Al-e Kazemi, Mohammad Ebrahim Maddahi, Hoseyni-'Ali Qasemzadeh, and 'Abdollah Hajiani with the culture and higher education commission of the Majles.

Thus far, members of governing boards of nine commissions of the Majles have been elected.

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Iran: Majles Deputy on Need for Administrative Reform

LD1406204496 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 11 Jun 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Country's Executive and Administrative Structures Should Change"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The most important tasks facing the fifth Majles are the legislation of the third development plan, reform of the country's executive and administrative structures, and review of the way in which the annual budget is drawn up, Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy from Tehran and the head of the Majles Center for Research said.

He told our correspondent that the third plan would be the most important piece of legislation that the Majles would have to deal with. He said: The framework of the plan is clear and its implementation should place the country in a better position with regard to its annual productivity and income.

He pointed out that social justice was a necessary element in all programs and said: I think more effective mechanisms must be sought for the execution of large-scale projects.

The head of the Majles Center for Research also stressed that it was necessary to supervise the correct implementation of law with regard to the annual budget. He said: The implementation of the first and second plans were not accurate and there is always the chance that some aspects of the plan are bypassed. He said the fourth Majles had protested whenever the budget laws were violated while the annual budget was being drawn up.

The Tehran deputy said one of the main duties of the fifth Majles was to review the government's executive structures while seeking a fundamental reform in the way that the annual budget was drawn up. [passage omitted]

Iran: Change in Attitudes Toward Elections Urged

NC1806185396 Tehran SALAM in Persian 11 Jun 96 p 9

[S. Bani-Asadi's Letter: "The Elections and Structural Problems"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To the Editor, SALAM newspaper: As you are well aware, at sensitive junctures during the elections, propaganda began and reached a crescendo. The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the press, with due regard for their mission, entered the elections arena and by eliciting the people's opinions, created conditions conducive for the people's participation.

There is a subtle point here — and unfortunately, one which no one has shown any sensitivity — that is, all the people based their votes on criteria that have become "cliched." [preceding word in English transliterated into Persian] For example, their definition of a wonderful candidate is that he should be: "Pious and a specialist and should attend to the woes of the people. He should be courageous, but have an independent will and so on."

However, what has transpired is that the Islamic Majles is becoming weaker with every term and the problems of the people are proliferating daily. It appears that as long as there are structural problems in society with regard to elections, one cannot expect any economic, political, or other reforms. In my personal opinion, there are two main structural problems with regard to elections, which are as follows:

A. The role of the people: The main objection pertains to the people themselves. They only become sensitive to the importance of their destiny, to a certain extent, during the elections. After the elections, they consider that the problem over.

Secondly, during the electioneering campaign, they are inadvertently influenced by propaganda. For example, the people tend to lean toward that group that carries out the most vociferous propaganda. The one whose propaganda is low-key is welcomed by the people much less. It has been observed repeatedly that some people say: So and so is a wonderful person, but when it is clear that he is not getting votes, why should we vote for him?"(!)

B. Political groups: Political trends and groups also exploit this weak point in the people, and instead of a "sincere" approach to problems, they resort to "sloganeering." For example they raise the slogan of "social justice" without having any previous experience of it in their dossiers! Or they support the policy of coupons and subsidies, without providing any explanations to the people of why they opposed these policies in the past!

The result is: Until the people become sensitive in the true sense of the word, regarding their destinies and their being influenced by propaganda; until political trends and groups relinquish their opportunism; until they approach the issues of the Islamic Revolution and society in a sincere manner, according to the traditions based on the clear injunctions of the Holy Koran, the Almighty will not change the fate of any nation unless it changes its own destiny. Salutations.

[Signed] S. Bani-Asadi

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Iran: Fatemeh Hashemi on importance on IUMWN Meeting in Tehran

LD1706171296 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 13 Jun 96 pp 1, 13

[Report by S. Babran: "A Major International Women's Meeting To Be Held in Tehran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran - The founders of the International Union of Muslim Women NGOs (IUMWN) will start meeting here today to discuss and finalize vital issues related to the Muslim Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Iran's Solidarity Women Association, President Ms Fatemeh Hashemi, in an exclusive interview with 'Iran News' said, "The two-day meeting is considered as an important event for all Muslim women". She said, "The IUMWN is an independent organization which was established for closer coordination and strengthening the activities of Muslim women worldwide on NGO line."

Commenting on the background of the formation of IUMWN, Hashemi said, "The issue was first raised during the Fourth World Women Conference held in Beijing last year."

"We felt it necessary to have a platform to coordinate our activities with our counterparts in the world as a whole," she said.

"On the initiative of the Iranian Women Solidarity Organization, the founders of the IUMWN met for the first time in Bonn, Germany on 2nd February last," she said. The participants at the first meeting approved the Iranian Women Solidarity Association's proposed organizational chart of the IUMWN, she said. The Bonn meeting was attended by the delegates from Britain, Kuwait, Switzerland and Lebanon.

The NGOs in Bonn meeting decided to meet in Tehran and also appointed Hashemi as interim chairperson of the IUMWN.

"The today's meeting will be attended by the representatives of the Muslim NGOs from Britain, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Kuwait, Sudan, Libya, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Morocco," Hashemi said. "The agenda before the participants at the Tehran meeting includes, approval of the IUMWN chart, acceptance of the membership from other Muslim countries and finally making a decision for holding the first general congress of the organization in the near future," Hashemi said.

Hashemi elaborating on IUMWN objectives said, "The founders agreed to promote educational and training activities among the Muslim women according to the Islamic values, to promote better awareness of the role and contribution of women in family and human development, to facilitate exchange of information and experience among Muslim women's organization[s], to enhance the capabilities of Muslim women to meet their religious and social responsibilities, to bring Muslim perspective to international fora and create grounds for better cooperation and communication among Muslim women NGOs."

Iran: Iranian Managers Said More Law Abiding

LD1706205396 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Jun 96 p 2

[News report: "Ra'isi: Iranian Managers More Law-Abiding"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran - In the prevailing climate of the country's administrative system, managers of state-run organizations observe the law more than before, head of the general state organization of investigation, Seyed Ebrahim Ra'isi said here Wednesday. [12 June]

Speaking to a press conference, he stressed that by enforcing certain punitive systems today we see less offences committed.

Alluding to facts revealed in the recent investigations, he said Iranian managers are less corrupt than those in any other country, and that Iran's administrative system is capable of implementing high standards for curbing administrative offences.

The organization received 8,000 complaints last year, the investigation to some of which are still underway, he said, adding that at the same time, it probed and concluded some 15,000 cases over the last year, ending on 20 March.

Appointing sincere and committed managers in state departments was among other measures taken by the government to help reduce administrative offences. Dissemination of the Islamic principle of encouraging good and forbidding evil was another mechanism which contributed in the reduction of offences. Encouraging senior state managers to listen and answer the inquiry of their clients was another measure taken to become sure about the good running of the affairs in governmental organizations.

To this end, the organization is for bolstering inspection departments of every office apart from the organization's investigations, Ra'isi stated.

He stressed that a more efficient organization will be conclusion to less crime and we will witness in state organs more managers who will try to implement the rules and regulations.

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Meanwhile, 10 more provincial branches affiliated to the organization became active last year probing into the effective implementation of the law.

Ra'isi said the organization probes into good running of the affairs through three mechanisms, routine detections, investigation of received complaints, or pursuant to an order by the supreme leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyed 'Ali Khamene'i, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Judiciary chief, or the Majles.

The organization's probes not only aim at punishing the offenders, but also at encouraging sincere managers and employees, Ra'isi concluded.

Iran: Head of Judiciary Calls For Islamic Universities

LD1706085396 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, who was leaving the city of Rasht at the end of a two-day visit to Gilan Province last night, said the visit had been positive. [passage omitted]

Before leaving the province, the judiciary head spoke to a gathering of university staff on the eminent leader's guidelines concerning the need to make the universities Islamic.

He said: This is an important issue that needs expert opinion in order to help establish the sovereignty of Islam at universities.

Iran: Daily Calls For Further Islamization of Universities

LD1606093196 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA — The English-language daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial on Sunday [16 June] commented on instructions of the supreme leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i regarding more Islamization of the country's universities and the cultural and educational institutes.

The editorial referred to the growing tendency among some secular figures within the university who use the freedom of expression to mount harsh attacks on the basic religious principles and the thoughts and ideals of the Islamic revolution. "No doubt, there were a few instances when the students took the law in their hands and forcibly prevented some anti-religious professors from continuing their presence in the educational fields."

Undoubtedly, the grand leader's instructions should be regarded as the final resolution to the tense situation in the educational sector, noted the daily adding that, grand leader's historic and important speech, in fact, constitutes worthy guidelines for the next course of action, as far as, the future set-up of the educational centres is concerned.

The editorial stressed that all-out efforts should be made to ensure that the country's universities function along the lines of the principles of the Islamic revolution.

Iran: Article Views Islamicization of Universities

LD1706162896 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 13 Jun 96 p2

[Unattributed commentary entitled: "Pay Attention to Leader's Guidance Regarding Universities"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Discipline is one of the basic components without which no society, institution, or country can develop in the right direction. Discipline is an indispensable commodity for students who are slated to take crucial responsibilities as full fledged members of the future society.

It is good that our government is very fully aware of the significance of discipline among students. Recently, Deputy Minister of Higher Education in charge of Cultural and Legal Affairs Dr. Mohammad Hoseyn Shoja'i-Fard announced that a three-day gathering will be held in October to explore various means to make our universities more Islamicized.

A similar assembly of experts was held last August in which the mechanism for coordination of different approaches of various concerned sectors responsible for making the university more disciplined on the Islamic line was discussed.

Another recent crucial development was a guideline provided by leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, who underlined two major aspects of the universities. Ayatollah Khamene'i emphasized that a more Islamic atmosphere should prevail for a sound structure of the universities. The leader also asked that government-owned universities should provide free higher education.

After the leader's guidance, we have witnessed that demonstrations and meetings are being organized by university students.

In our point of view, two major aspects should be kept in mind before realizing the real spirit of the guideline of the leader.

A) Without a doubt we can say that our universities still have a long way to go to reach the true and desired

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Islamic standards. No doubt, all efforts should be made towards achieving this objective at the earliest, but we should note that the leader did not suggest that the existing system of law and order should be ignored or set aside at the universities.

Today the overall situation in the country differs from what it used to be in 1980 just after the culmination of the Islamic revolution.

That was the time when our newly born Islamic country was fighting against an imposed war and one could find justification for certain behaviours. But today things are changed. The country is heading towards complete political maturity and enjoys a healthy and sound system.

So, all our actions aimed at reforming the society should be taken in such a way so as not to create unnecessary tension. University officials should not allow anyone to settle his personal or factional differences with adversaries.

B) The leader rightly referred to a bright aspect of university affairs and asked that the government-owned university should provide free higher education.

Nations sometimes make mistakes while embarking on cultural extremism. For example, privatization of educational institutions has its own drawbacks. The methods, which in some cases were adopted, have brought down the prestige of some universities which they had been enjoying for the last 50 years.

According to some reports, certain universities entered into agreements with some ministries and organizations for educational facilities in return of enormous sums of money. In the name of privatization, degrees should not be bestowed for money.

In short, due attention should be paid towards the guidelines set by the leader and convert our universities along the lines of genuine Islam.

Iran: Majles Deputy Discusses Religious Violence

LD1506212396 Tehran SALAM in Persian 11 Jun 96 p 1

[News report: "Interview With Majles Deputy Nuri on Religious Violence"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tehran, IRNA—[passage omitted] Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin 'Abdollah Nuri, Majles deputy from Tehran said: The idea that the officials in charge of the country's construction affairs should also be responsible for social and government values is incorrect. He said: Those people should only perform their duties and at the same time they should possess Islamic values. [passage omitted]

He described the use of religious violence as one of the biggest threats against Islamic values, and added: If acts of violence take place in a society in the name of religion and under the banner of Islam, then Islam and the Islamic culture will be harmed seriously, and that will make people run away from religion.

He said: It is only through culture and logic that we will be able to promote Islamic actions, and we will get nowhere by resorting to force and violence.

Nuri continued: Social values of Islam should not be confined to fighting those who do not observe the Islamic dress code and so on. [passage omitted]

He said: There are some people who simply use a podium for slinging mud. They accuse others of being liberals or being opposed to the rule of the supreme jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih]. They play with words in order to damage the honor of other people, and that cannot be good for unity.

He continued: There are some who, under the pretext of defending religion, allow themselves to resort to any kind of action which is contrary to the values of it. And if someone wants to express his opinion within the framework of religious rules and regulations, the constitution and divine laws, he is accused of being a foreign agent and is blamed for creating tension. He may even be deprived of his social rights and his life may be threatened. [passage omitted]

Iran: Repair of Petrochemical Complex Saves $6 Million

LD1706190496 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our country's experts and engineers, for the first time, carried out essential repair work on the Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni petrochemical complex, saving the country more than $6 million in foreign currency.

The deputy head of the petrochemical complex said: Thanks to this repair work, the complex began its daily production. He added: In addition to the repair work, the tower of the complex was rebuilt by manufacturing 18,000 of the spare parts in the country.

The complex produces 3.5 million tonnes of petrochemical products per year, part of which is exported abroad.

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Iran: Editorial on Alleged Violations of Press Laws

LD1606144796 Tehran SALAM in Persian 12 Jun 96 p 2

[Editorial: "Written Warning to SALAM"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 21 May 1996, the press supervisory board announced that they had met on the previous day to discuss breaches of law by three publications — SALAM, MOBEYN, and KIYAN — and decided to send them written cautions.

One week after the announcement of this news, we wrote an editorial (26 May 1996) under the headline of "Written Caution!" and said although seven days had passed, the officials and the staff of the newspaper had not yet received the written caution and were not aware of the breach that had resulted in the honorable press supervisory board issuing the written caution.

Several days passed, but we had not yet received any caution. So, we wrote another editorial, under the headline of "Written Caution to Our Readers," and informed our readers again that we had not yet received the caution from the board. But luck was scarce and as the article was being typed, we heard that the "written caution" had reached the newspaper offices. Finally, after two weeks, we officially announced that the written caution had been received.

The caution refers to two issues:

1 — Creating serious doubt in the soundness of the election process;
2 — Creating public anxiety about the office of the eminent leader of the revolution.

We have to explain several things about these issues:

The supervisory board has not explained the two above cases and has not produced any evidence for its claims. It is not clear how SALAM has created serious doubt in the soundness of the elections, and it is not clear on what facts the board has based its conclusions. Therefore, the staff and possibly the readers of the newspaper, do not understand the claims and do not know what actions they should refrain from in order not to commit the same mistakes.

Is it a breach of the law if someone thinks and says that the elections were not sound in some constituencies? Is there a breach of the law when the majority of the candidates who did not receive a majority vote, particularly those whose number of votes were close to that of those who had been elected, say that the rules of the elections had been violated? And that if elections had been held properly they would have been elected and they say these things in letters and scrolls sent to state officials — as for example in the case of Asfahan elections, where the Guardian Council nulled the elections. There were strong complaints by the honorable Friday Prayer leader, the honorable governor, many officials, and a great section of the people who thought the elections were sound? [passage omitted]

In the same fashion, the gentlemen have not bothered to explain to the newspaper staff the meaning of "creating anxiety about the office of the eminent leader." But most probably, the problem is in reference to the two news items for which the special clerical court closed the SALAM newspaper for two days. We published our views on the subject after SALAM went to the press again. [passage omitted]

What sort of behavior is it when the gentlemen gather to discuss the alleged breaches and go on to condemn the publication without identifying the cases and even asking the newspaper staff to be present at the meeting?

Pakistan

Pakistan: Prime Minister Discusses Newly Presented Budget

BK1706145496 Islamabad THE NATION in English 14 Jun 96 pp 1,5

[APP Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD — With a thrust on sound and progressive economy, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Thursday said, a marked increase effected in the development allocation in the 1996-97 Federal Budget is a crystallisation of her government's manifesto to extend basic facilities to the poor for a bright and prosperous Pakistan.

She said this at a post-budget Press conference in her chamber at the Parliament House. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister of State for Finance Makhdoom Shahabuddin.

"This year we have increased the development allocation to Rs[rupees] 104 billion from last year's Rs 96 billion, this has been done to provide basic facilities like education, health, clean water and better nutrition to the poor, this is a demonstration of our resolve to set Pakistan on path to a bright future," she said.

The Prime Minister said, her government is in the middle of the adjustment programme launched to overcome the difficulties it inherited from the previous government and to put country's economy on sound foundations.

"We are coming down from the top of the hill of difficulties and our achievements in reducing the budget deficit bringing down the inflation rate — shows that we

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have set a healthy momentum of the economy that will lead us to a plain of progress," she said.

Benazir Bhutto said, this year it has been possible to reduce Rs 30 billion out of the Rs 70 billion budget gap mainly due to the wrongly followed policies of the Nawaz Sharif government.

"Of the Rs 70 billion gap, we have overcome the Rs 30 billion shortfall by means of vibrant, sound and progressive economy which the government has been pursuing."

The Prime Minister said, of the remaining Rs 40 billion deficit, 25 billion are a direct consequence of Nawaz Sharif governments's irrational policies.

The Prime Minister urged that her government will need united support of the people in overcoming the inherited economic difficulties and realising a sound economy for the country. "Quaid-i-Azam established Pakistan when people rallied behind the freedom movement, we waged a struggle against the dictatorship of Ziaul Haq and succeeded in restoring democracy in the country because of mass support from the people and all this was not done overnight", she said.

"Now that constitutional democracy has been restored in the country, our government aims at lifting the condition of the poor, we want to eradicate illiteracy, unemployment and poverty from the country, and for the achievement of these goals, the people will have to sacrifice presently," Bhutto said.

The Prime Minister said, her government wants to see the country entering the 21st century with its villages lightened up, its women not inhaling smoke while cooking on woods, its people enjoying the latest civic facilities and its children receiving education.

She underlined the steps taken by her government in broadening the base of taxation.

"How can we end poverty when only 0.8 million people out of the total population of 130 million pay the taxes. It is not appropriate, we have decided the documentation of taxes, levy flat taxes and evolve a system to persuade the people pay taxes."

Benazir enumerated a number of steps taken by her government for the progress of the down-trodden. "We have followed the programme of electrifying 6000 villages yearly, establishing 10,000 schools for children, extending lady health services for population planning, extending the supply of gas to far off areas."

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said, her government has been actively following the policy of extending facilities to businessmen who should have access to latest communication means.

She said, her government has taken equally significant steps in creating jobs for the people in cities.

However, she maintained, the government believes in providing facilities to people living in rural and urban areas according to a thought-out plan to stop influx of people into major cities which gives rise to violence.

"We have seen crime rate rising in large cities like Chicago where even a 12-year-old child kills other, then their is drug addiction which becomes a stigma of the urban life.

"As advocated at the Habitat-II Conference at Istanbul we want to see greater investment and progress .. cities but at the same time we want to provide best facilities in villages so that people do not migrate to cities to check over-population which results in violence."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Renazir Bhutto on Thursday asked the Opposition to give up talking of "gimmicks and enter into unconditional talks with the government if it is sincere in supporting us on national issues."

Replying to a question at a Press conference, she said, if the Opposition is prepared to enter into a dialogue unconditionally the government will welcome them.

The Prime Minister said, there are a number of national issues on which the Opposition can support the government.

"Mere is the Eighth Amendment, judicial Reforms, electoral reforms, matters of restoration of women seats and the minorities seats, if the opposition is sincere it should come forward," she said.

Benazir Bhutto criticised the opposition for maligning her government with scandals.

"Why should a politician malign the other in our country the Quaid-i-Azam considered politics no less than worship.

She criticised the opposition for adopting dirty tricks of character-assassination.

Answering another question the Prime Minister said, the talks between the government and the Opposition should be held on give and take basis.

Pakistan: Commerce, Industry Chambers Call Budget 'Unacceptable'

BK1706151496 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Jun 96 pp 1,4

[Report by Mohammad Ilyas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, June 14: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce &

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Industry [FPCCI] has rejected the Budget 1996-97, terming it as "a completely anti-industrial, anti-business, anti-poor, pro-smuggling and bureaucratic budget".

Senator Ilyas Ahmed Bilour, the FPCCI President disclosed this at a Press conference at Bhurban near Murree on Friday at the end of a marathon meeting with the FPCCI Management Committee, Presidents/representatives of 22 chambers of commerce and industry and 12 trade associations.

Claiming to speak on behalf of the entire business community, Senator Bilour stated, "the consensus reached in the meeting was that the budget is unacceptable". He said after more detailed study of the budget, the General Body of FPCCI would meet at Lahore on June 17 for drawing up its future line of action.

An interesting aspect of the Press conference also attended by 5 large number of businessmen from all over Pakistan was the presence at the platform of Mr Munawar Mughal, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry [ICCI]. ICCI had been giving a lot of trouble to the Federation leadership over the past two years and had been practically ostracised by Mr S.M. Muneer, the then FPCCI President and now a Minister of State. Mr Mughal stood up with others to register his endorsement of the FPCCI's decision. Meanwhile, Senator Bilour stated, it had been decided that the business community would not go to the government for talks unless invited. "If anybody from the business community defies this unanimous decision, he would be subjected to social boycott," Mr Bilour threatened.

Asked whether the FPCCI would ask the traders not to pay taxes, he replied, "We have not yet taken any such decision." He further stated, "we do not want any confrontation and we have not given the call for a strike."

In reply to a question, the FPCCI President said that the government had simply ignored all the proposals made by the Federation regarding its taxation measures. The only exception was the decision announced by the minister of state for finance in his budget speech also to appoint business representatives in the Income Tax Settlement Commission. "We reject that too" because of the condition that they must have a minimum of 21 years experience." FPCCI would not suggest any names", he declared but fell short of justifying this decision.

The Federation, he, however, recalled, had already suggested the names of businessmen who had experience spanning 15 to 20 years and about whom FPCCI was confident that they would be able to make valuable contribution to the technical work of the Settlement Commission.

Senator Bilour, speaking sarcastically, 'suggested' that the government should withdraw Wealth Tax on one index produce unit.

Probably, he added, the feudal were poorer than the poorest who had been subjected to 18 per cent Sales Tax on all the goods, except 34 items. The part of economy which represented 23 per cent of the economy paid Rs.[rupees] 76 billion this year, while the feudal who bag billions of rupees from sale of orchards parted with only Rs.2.8 million on account of Wealth Tax. An additional burden of Rs 10 billion had been imposed on the business community who could also pay the Rs.4 million that would accrue from increase of Rs.150 per index product unit proposed in the budget speech.

Reiterating that the government should not try to lower the budget deficit below 4.5 per cent of GDP, the FPCCI President feared that the government would resort to numerous mini-budgets during the next financial year too. For he contested the official claim that the deficit was 5 per cent. In fact it was 5.4 per cent in view of the fact that the statement by Makhdoom Shahabuddin in his budget speech that there was a shortfall of Rs.10 billion in the current year.

The budget had particularly hit hard the poor through G.S.T. [General Sales Tax] on cottage industry and winding industry. "We warned the prime minister that the GST would affect the people very hard and inflation would simply go berserk. He pointed out that within only 3 years, the power tariff had been raised by 37 per cent.

On the one hand, the budget had provided huge new privileges for the Assemblies' members, ministers, prime minister etc., on the other hand even the existing concessions had been withdrawn from the corporate sector, he regretted. Mr Bilour criticised the withdrawal of SRO 561/194 as this would be detrimental to the entrepreneurship in NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] and Balochistan.

About the reduction in price of petrol, he said it was not even 20 per cent of the decrease in world price.

The FPCCI also criticised the 18 per cent GST on cotton and cotton products. He said even the suggestion by FPCCI that the rate should be lower and the GST charged at one stage instead of at multiple stages had not been accepted. Besides proving to be a disincentive to exports, the measure would create liquidity Problem for the industry, Particularly as each refund involves palm greasing to the extent of two to three per cent, he contended.

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The FPCCI further regretted that all the trade's hue and cry against the withdrawal of fixed tax scheme have been in vain. The measure would surely result in closure of many small industrial units, he apprehended.

Mr Bilour reiterated his cooperation in resolving the problem of tax evasion. But then he added, "The taxes are collected from the people for the betterment of the nation and not for being squandered for luxuries of the prime minister and other functionaries of the government." While the country had been brought at par with other countries in the level and pervasiveness of taxes, the government should also provide Social safeguards which were available elsewhere. The government had even failed to guarantee the safety of people's lives, he charged.

The business community, the FPCCI President continued, had always Served the people in calamities, whether natural or war. As regards feudal lords, he added it was their constant endeavour to prevent development in rural areas.

When his attention was invited to a Press conference addressed by Mr S.M. Muneer earlier at the same place, Mr Bilour indicated his displeasure, saying that Mr Muneer was still "our leader" and "we will ask him whether it was proper on his part to talk to Press in the presence of other FPCCI leaders."

Pakistan: Foreign Minister on Kashmir, India, CTBT, Afghanistan

BK1906023296 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Mariana Baabar in Islamabad]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan is studying and analyzing the offer of secretary-level talks by Indian Prime Minister Deve Gowda, said Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali Monday while talking to THE NEWS.

Though the initial statement from New Delhi expressed optimism for good relations the minister nevertheless stressed the need for being cautious "because there had been no change on the ground inside the Occupied Kashmir."

"We seem to have lost sight of the realities before us and we should not be over optimistic about these talks. Before we hold the talks there should be clarity of our agenda and this is where I see the difficulty," he said.

The top leadership recently held several meetings to discuss the future course to take on Kashmir with the new Indian Government. High Commissioner Riaz Khokhar besides briefing the officials at the foreign office also met President Farooq Leghari on Sunday before returning to New Delhi.

Asif said the letters exchanged between the two prime ministers and foreign ministers were indicative of the suspicion that he harbored. "We talked about the Kashmir issue and the replies we received did not touch upon it. If this is the approach they adopt for the initiative in these talks we would find it difficult to respond. This is where the deadlock was in the first place. This will be the first hurdle and if they say that Kashmir is not on the agenda of future talks than it is the same position as Narasimha Rao had", Asif explained.

The foreign minister agreed that the mood had changed in New Delhi as Gowda's party manifesto makes strong reference to Kashmir. "We may disagree with him but the fact is he and his party realize that Kashmir is a running sore in India. We hope he will not carry the prejudices and acrimony of the Indians who offer talks of settling historic scores with Pakistan", Asif said.

He said the discouraging aspect is the assessment of the Indian government which is forcing elections on the people of Kashmir at gun point. "I don't see the purpose of these futile exercises. We are not against elections per se anywhere but there are two aspects of elections which should not be lost on Indian leaders. The first is that elections cannot be a solution to the Kashmir dispute. Had this been so then all the elections in the past would have solved the Kashmir problem. Secondly, it is an international dispute and the people want plebiscite there".

CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty]: The Foreign Minister said Pakistan has an independent position on CTBT. "We agree to the scope of the treaty and we broadly agree to the second element of verification."

The third element is the most difficult which is the universal adoption which is referred to as "entry into force". We have said that if one of the nuclear powers or one on the threshold (5+8) does not sign the treaty then the whole CTBT will not achieve its purpose. Again if there is no agreement then all those eight and the next six or seven in line should sign the CTBT. The Indians have thrown a spanner in the works. We have said yes to nuclear disarmament. But we do not want to lay any conditions," Asif added.

Afghanistan: Pakistan has reacted favorably to the objections raised by President Borhanoddin Rabbani and stopped all intended work on the Chaman-Torghundi highway which is an area controlled by the Taleban.

"We do not wish to interfere. Rather we have sent a fresh draft to Kabul and now we are waiting to sign the final agreement on communication and telecommunication.

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This will be a kind of umbrella agreement", the minister said. In the background is the rejection of the initial draft which Rabbani's Transport Minister had objected to and finally Pakistan corrected its technical language.

The foreign minister, however, was still determined that Kabul had to pay the compensation for burning Pakistan's Embassy before it would send in a new ambassador to reopen its mission there.

Pakistan: Envoy to India Briefs Foreign Ministry on Developments

BK1806135996 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 18 Jun 96 p 12

[PPI Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD - Pakistan High Commissioner to India, Riaz Khokhar, left for New Delhi after detailed discussions with senior foreign ministry officials on latest developments in South Asia.

Informed sources told this agency here Monday that Khokhar, who arrived here Saturday met Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and other senior officials of the ministry and briefed them on the political changes in India especially after the formation of a new centre left coalition government in that country.

The sources replied in the affirmative when asked if the Indian Prime Minister H.D. Gowda's desire for resumption of Pak-India dialogue also came under discussion.

Foreign office had recently announced that Pakistan would respond to Gowda's letter after its in-depth study.

"The letter needs to be studied in-depth before a definite response could be formulated", the foreign office had stated while commenting on the letter.

The sources, recalling a statement recently made by a foreign office spokesman, said that the messages received from India reflected an acceptance in principle of proposal for talks.

In her felicitation message to Gowda, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had reiterated Pakistan's offer of talks aimed at settlement of core issue of Jammu and Kashmir and other outstanding matters between the two countries.

In response to his message, Gowda had said his government stood ready to work together with Bhutto's government to address all issues of mutual concern.

Pakistan: Article Views CTBT Talks, India's Stand

BK1606135196 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Jun 96 p 11

[Article by Munir Ahmed Khan, former chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission: "CTBT and South Asia"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE final round of the negotiations on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) will end on June 28. All the nuclear weapons states and particularly the United States have resolved that the text of the treaty will have to be finalised by this date and there will be no further extension. In fact, the timing for formal signing of the treaty in New York by early September has already been fixed. The negotiators in Geneva are working round the clock to meet this target.

First of all, the nuclear weapons states are resolving their differences and making compromises through give-and-take where necessary. The US has already given up its idea of continuing low- yield nuclear tests and embraced the concept of zero-yield tests with no release of fission energy. The so-called laboratory tests will be allowed as long as they are sub-critical. There will be no restriction on research and development work on controlled fusion energy. France has categorically stated that it will not carry out any more tests and will sign the CTBT.

China has for the last one year let it be known that it needed to carry out some nuclear tests before the ratification of the CTBT but recently it has informally indicated that it will conduct only two tests before the actual signing of the CTBT. It has already conducted one test with one more to go in the coming weeks. China has also compromised its stand on exemption for the so-called peaceful nuclear explosions (PNE). Some days ago the Chinese representative at Geneva announced that China will not conduct any peaceful nuclear explosion whatsoever another in ten years. It may yet modify its position and stop insistence on any PNEs after the ratification of the CTBT. The UK, has all along supported the CTBT and Russia has done the same. So at the present time all the five nuclear weapons states are working closely to iron out the remaining differences on points of detail so that the final text is frozen by the end of June.

The position of the threshold states, namely Israel, India and Pakistan, has not been officially finalised. All of them have special problems. The US sources have indicated that Israel had agreed in principle to sign the CTBT. The change of government in Tel Aviv in recent days will not alter this situation because of the three threshold states, Israel does not have to conduct any nuclear test to prove the reliability of its

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nuclear arsenal. It is widely believed that Israel has a highly advanced nuclear stockpile of different kinds of warheads, including hydrogen bombs. It has had access to test data from other nuclear countries, presumably the United States, to give it confidence that its own bombs will work.

Realistically speaking, Israel cannot conduct a nuclear test even if it wanted to. It has no suitable site within its own territory and its public opinion will not allow a test on its own soil. Further, about 20 years ago, it was rumoured Israel tried to conduct a nuclear test in South Africa but with the change of government in that country, this possibility is excluded in the future. There is no other country in the world which will offer Israel a site for conducting a nuclear test. Under these circumstance Israel might make a virtue of necessity and sign the CTBT and continue to retain its nuclear arsenal which is assumed to be reliable.

This shifts the focus onto the other two threshold states, namely India and Pakistan. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it has repeatedly assured the world that it has no intention of conducting any nuclear test as long as India does not do so. It is also prepared to sign the CTBT if India agrees to do the same.

In recent months, Washington has been advising Pakistan to go ahead and sign the CTBT without linking it to India's actions. The government of Pakistan has refused to accept this advice because it would be politically unacceptable to the people of Pakistan. In fact, no government in the country can take this step unilaterally without India coming on board simultaneously. This brings India into the centre stage for determining whether the subcontinent will join the CTBT in September or later or never.

Ten years ago, at a UN conference on disarmament, India took pride in advocating a complete ban on all nuclear testing. This helped it score a point among the opponents of nuclear weapons. However, since last year the situation has changed. The nuclear weapons states seem determined to go ahead with the CTBT. India is suddenly realising that by signing the CTBT it would automatically accept capping of its nuclear weapons programme and is looking for a way out. The Indian strategy has been to declare that the CTBT is not enough; one has to go beyond that. In order for the CTBT to be useful and acceptable to India it must be linked with a time-bound framework for complete elimination of all nuclear weapons by the five nuclear powers. Only then would India be willing to sign the CTBT.

This line of argument has not worked and the nuclear powers have totally rejected this approach. Morally, there is some justification for asking the nuclear weapons states to give up their nuclear arsenals in order to have a really nuclear-free world. Many liberals and independent thinkers would have sympathy for this point of view. However, to demand that a timetable for complete elimination for all nuclear weapons be agreed by the end of June or before signing the CTBT is completely unrealistic.

Nuclear disarmament is a difficult process and it cannot be achieved overnight. The nuclear power have already agreed to reduce their stockpiles from 30,000 nuclear warheads each to 3,000 each by the year 2003. One can demand that this process should be speeded up and even 3,000 weapons each are too many. In the first stage they should limit their warheads to 300 each and later on eliminate them altogether. This will require further negotiations and greater pressure from the non-nuclear states and world community at large.

But if the nuclear weapons states cannot agree on total elimination at this time, then one should not abandon the idea of achieving a complete ban on nuclear testing. The CTBT is a step in the right direction which should be followed with other major steps too. But we must take this step now and seize the opportunity of achieving an agreement which may elude us next year. Should any of the nuclear weapons states change its mind and there is another round of nuclear testing, the chances of preventing the so-called threshold states from joining the nuclear fray will multiply.

Some people believe that India has been taking this uncompromising and unrealistic stand against the CTBT and linking it to impossible preconditions, is because it wants to gain time for conducting nuclear tests. By using the slogan of total elimination of nuclear weapons, it wants to provide a moral cover for continuing its own nuclear weapons programme on a massive scale. This assumption is supported by ground realities.

India is going ahead with production of additional nuclear weapons material. It adds about 50 kg of weapons-grade plutonium plus an unknown amount of highly enriched uranium to its stockpile every year. This means another 10 to 15 bombs per year to the existing capability of over 100 bombs. It is also going ahead with its nuclear delivery system by continuing to develop 2,500 km-range Agni and refining 300 km range Prithvi missiles. Recently, it was announced that it will complete a nuclear submarine within the next few years. The land based tests of its propulsion reactor will take place next year.

All this goes to indicate that India is on way to building a sizeable nuclear arsenal and the needed delivery systems. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] government

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was committed to doing it openly. Congress was doing it covertly; the present government plans to do it quietly. Only recently New Delhi confirmed that it will continue to retain the nuclear option.

India has not yet shown its card openly at Geneva. Its move to link the CTBT to a prior agreement on a fixed time-frame for total disarmament has not worked. It has now to decide on other available options at Geneva. But this will create very serious political repercussions at global level and India will be blamed for failure. Recently, during the visit of its foreign minister to New Delhi, Russia bluntly told India that it should not block the CTBT. The US and others have given the same warning. Therefore, it seems most will stand up against all the nuclear weapons states to block the passage or the acceptance of the final text of the CTBT at Geneva.

India could also make its acceptance conditional by expressing its reservations on a number of points and not committing itself to signing the CTBT in September. It will have to show its cards. If it does not join the rest of the world, it will become completely isolated and its nuclear programme will come under open scrutiny and criticism, which is unpalatable for New Delhi.

India could also decide to sign the CTBT and delay its ratification for a long time by repeatedly quoting its serious reservations. This could be done. But even if India chooses this approach, it cannot conduct a nuclear test. The political price will be too high and the world reaction too severe. All in all India faces a dilemma at Geneva which it has to resolve by itself. Meanwhile, the future of any nuclear tests in South Asia hangs in the balance.

Pakistan: Official Refutes U.S. Envoy's 'Force Majeure' Comments

BK1906045296 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 Jun 96 p 16

[Report by THE NEWS correspondent in Quetta]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Home Secretary Balochistan Nayyar Agha has refuted the observations of the US Ambassador in Pakistan that the US companies busy in the oil and gas exploration in Balochistan were working under "force majeure."

Replying to a question at the post budget news conference he said when the companies fail in fulfilling the obligations the recruitment of unskilled and semi-skilled labour locally and dishing out the petty contracts to the local contractors, the problems surface.

But, he said at present no company was functioning under "force majeure" as claimed by the US Ambassador in Pakistan a few weeks ago.

He said all the companies busy in the oil and gas exploration in Balochistan were being provided full security. Finance Secretary Muhammad Yousuf Niazi speaking on the occasion said that Balochistan government had issued the NOCs to all the companies interested in the oil and gas exploration in the province.

Pakistan: Chief Justices Committee Relieves 21 Judges From Duty

BK1706151596 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Jun 96 p 12

[Report by Badrul Islam Butt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LAHORE, June 16: Pursuant to the decision arrived at the meeting of Chief Justices Committee held at Murree on June 13, the chief justice of Lahore High Court on Sunday stopped eleven judges of the court from further bearing the cases pending before them. The cases already allocated to them have been called back by the chief justice for reallocation to other judges. The names of Judge who, according to the term used by the Chief Justices Committee, have been 'laid-off' are: Justice Chaudhry Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, Justice Arif Iqbal Hussain Bhatti, Justice Chaudhry Khurshid Ahmed, Justice Ahmed Saeed Awan, Justice Iftikhar Hussain Chaudhry, Justice Riaz Hussain, Justice Rana Mohanimad Arshad Khan, Justice Mrs Nasira Laved Iqbal, Justice Miss Talat Ylaqoob, Justice Rao Nicem Hashnii Khan and Justice Syed Zahid Hussain Bokhari.

From latest development it has become clear that the names of the aforementioned judges were not recommended for regularisation of their appointment/ confirmation by the chief justice of Lahore High Court whose recommendations were endorsed by Chief Justice of Pakistan. Some of the said judges, who have been working at principal seat Lahore, sided their courts but remained confined to their chambers a waiting final decision on their fate in the form of notification of the federal government. Unlike the workers who are not paid for lay-off period, the judges so laid-off will continue to enjoy the privileges and protocol attached to their offices as judges of the high court until a final decision is made about their future.

The number of judges who are understood to have not been recommended for regularisation by the chief justice of Lahore High Court originally stood at 13. Two of them, Justice Mohammad Zafar Hashmi and Raja Abdul Aziz Bhatti have already retired as additional judges. Another judge, justice Arif Iqbal Bhatti is going to retire on July 9, 1996 as additional judge. He would be able to practice as advocate of the high court after retirement.

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Remaining of the 26 judges who were appointed and later confirmed by the government as judges of the Lahore High Court and were termed as affected judges under the judgement dated 20.3.1996 of the Supreme Court, continued their normal functions in the high court. At Lahore, the principal seat of the high court, five of the remaining affected judges were placed on duty roster by the chief justice of LHC [Lahore High Court] for the weeks commencing on June 16, 1996. Their names are: Abdul Hafeez Cheema, Justice Tassadaq Hussain Jilani, Justice Amir Alam Khan, Justice Karamat Nazir Bhandari and Justice M Javed Buttar. They are considered to have received positive recommendation by the chief justice. Others in the said category are: Justice Mohammad Aqil Mirza, Justice Ch Mohammad Nasim, Justice Mrs Fakhar-un-Nisa Khokhar, Justice Sharif Hussain Bokhari, Justice Mohammad Asif Jan, Justice Mohammad Islam Bhatti, Justice Rana Mohammad Khursheed and Justice Raja Mohammad Sabir.

It may be mentioned that the Lahore High Court which had 41 judges against its approved strength of 50, now has a total number of 28 judges including 15 old judges and 13 of the affected judges.

According to AFP, the chief justices of Sindh and Peshawar high courts have ordered 11 judges to stop working.

Our PESHAWAR BUREAU adds: In line with the decision of the meeting of the chief justices of the supreme court and high courts at Murree Thursday last, three ad hoc judges of the Peshawar High Court have been restrained from performing their duties as judges of the PHC [Peshawar High Court]. The affected judges are Salim Dil Khan, Zenat Khan and Qazi Ihsahullah. It has been learnt that the decision had been taken on the ground that none of the three judges fulfilled the required 10-year continuous experience as practising lawyers in the PHC.

Our KARACHI BUREAU adds: The seven ad hoc judges of Sindh High Court have been laid off and a high court notification has asked the roster branch to remove the ad hoc judges from court roster and no judicial work should be assigned to them. According to a report, the chief justice of Sindh High Court justice Mamoon Qazi has issued a notification to this effect. The seven ad hoc judges in Sindh High Court are: Rana Bhagwandas, Agha Rafiq, Ghulam Haider Lakho, AbdLil Lateef Qureshi, Abdul Majeed Khanzada and Shahnawaz Awan.

It may be recalled that the chief justices committee, which met in Murree a few days ago had decided to lay off the ad hoc judges in the Federal Shariat Court and four high courts from June 16 and not to assign any judicial work to those whose names have not been recommended by their respective chief justices for confirmation.

Pakistan: Nawaz Sharif Preparing 'Fresh Protest' Against Government

BK1906045996 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 Jun 96 pp 1, 9

[Report by Tariq Butt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: Leader of the opposition, Nawaz Sharif, is once again busy in lengthy consultations with his colleagues to make a final decision on, what he says, "how to get rid of the corrupt government".

On Monday, he went into a prolonged session with his parliamentary party and its allies for four hours and the entire opposition even did not turn up in the National Assembly in the morning session. "We will remain in session on Tuesday and may be the next day, and will continue this process unless we finally decide our future line of action," Sharif told the newsmen.

The opposition leader hinted at starting a fresh protest movement against the government for presenting the "harsh" budget, the reported purchase of a 355-acre Surrey mansion by the prime minister, and her approach towards the superior judiciary.

"We have consulted other political parties and will take them into confidence about our next move," Sharif told a questioner. 'Our discussion focused on the budget, the government's corruption and purchase of Surrey mansion and judiciary", Nawaz said.

He also released the copies of a letter, signed by opposition MNAs, which was being sent to President Farooq Leghari on Monday, asking him to persuade Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to implement the March 20 judgment of the Supreme Court relating to appointment of judges.

"We hope that using your good offices under constitutional provisions, you may be able to persuade her to carry out her constitutional provisions and duties", the letter said. "Otherwise the people of Pakistan will be faced with a very bleak and dark future for which future generations will not forgive this government".

It said the opposition feels great anxiety over the way Ms Bhutto and her cabinet are obstructing and impeding the implementation of the judgment. "This historic and monumental verdict which secures independence and integrity of the judiciary is being sabotaged".

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The letter said though it is mandatory under the Constitution for the government to implement the judgment, the regularisation process of additional judges of high courts has not been completed within 30 days time period which is one of the main aspects of the verdict.

"In fact the Chief Justices Committee, at its meeting in Murree on June 13, has directed not to allocate any work to those judges, who have not been recommended for regularisation. It also stated that any, appointments without the recommendations of the chief justices of the high courts and the CJ [Chief Justice] of Pakistan will be invalid in terms of the SC [Supreme Court] decision".

The letter said the prime minister's statements that the SC judgment is being implemented are misleading the people as this vital issue is being handled in an unconstitutional mariner. "This hostile attitude of the PM is leading to a constitutional, legal and political crisis. It would not only weaken the state structure but could lead to judicial impasse and paralyze the system. The sole responsibility for bringing the situation to a head would rest with the government".

As head of the state, as an integral part of Parliament and as an appointing authority of the SC CJ, a serious responsibility rests on the President, the letter told Leghari.

This is the second letter to the president from the opposition in about three weeks.

The first one was written by Sharif urging Leghari to hold a referendum using his constitutional discretion on the opposition leader's proposal to set up a permanent accountability commission. The president is yet to respond to it.

To a question, the opposition leader said he felt sorry over Leghari's attitude not to respond to his letter. "Although we are disappointed, we will not budge from discharging our constitutional, moral, political and legal duties", he added.

Sharif said the opposition would put up a strong resistance to the federal budget inside and outside of the National Assembly, because it will make lives of the poor and the middle class more miserable.

"If the government tried to bulldoze the budget through the House, it will be answerable to the people," the opposition leader said. "I have given the concept in my Sunday speech how to improve things, and if the government revives the momentum of development, set by my government, there will be betterment".

He charged that the prime minister is constantly trying to deceive the people by denying THE SUNDAY EXPRESS story while the London newspaper has come out with new facts about her Surrey property.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Colombo Views Extension of Ban on LTTE by India

BK1806130596 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The extension of the ban on the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] by the Indian Government by another two years sends an unequivocal signal about New Delhi's approach to the terrorists. By banning the LTTE, the Deve Gowda government has sent a clear signal that no change in attitude is in the (?offing) toward the terrorists fighting for their divisions of Sri Lanka. Recently, the LTTE launched a major propaganda campaign aimed at both New Delhi and Madras asking them to adopt a more friendly attitude.

It may be recalled that the Tigers were declared an unlawful organization almost a year after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi on May the 21st 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu. Government circles in New Delhi have been concerned that the previous policy adopted by India under P.V. Narasimha Rao should continue as they feel that it is in the best interest of Sri Lanka. Though there are definite domestic security compulsions in India for banning the LTTE, many in Sri Lanka remain constantly worried about the approach of both New Delhi and Madras toward the Tigers.

Sri Lanka: LTTE Dispatch Details Offensive in Amparai, Trincomalee

BK1906045496 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW in Tamil 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A joint military-police fortification was attacked and destroyed by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] in Amparai at 1240 in the morning yesterday. Four policemen were killed, and others managed to escape with injuries during the offensive that lasted for only five minutes. The LTTE cadres, who brought the fortification under their control within five minutes, seized a number of weapons and pieces of military equipment. The fortification was destroyed. Two freedom fighters attained martyrdom during this successful assault. Our tributes go to those national heroes who dedicated themselves completely to the holy war to rout the enemies from our motherland.

Delayed reports say that two police stations in the Trincomalee area also became the target of an attack by crack LTTE units. There is no further report on the offensive carried out today.

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Seven civilians fell victim to the frenzy of Sri Lankan Government terrorists during the night of 12 June. Civilians sailing on a boat to Wanni from Vadamarachchi-East fell victim to the act of terrorism committed by the Navy. This incident took place at Vettilaikerni. The boatman jumped into the sea and escaped. The names and details of the killed civilians has not been learned.

Sri Lankan troops brutally shot dead two Tamil fishermen in the Kalkuda locality in the east. The fishermen who fell victim to state terrorism are: 35-year old Damodiram Erambamurthy, who is survived by his five children; and 16-year old M. Kanthavanam.

Continuous missile attacks are reported to have been carried out from the Elephant Pass military camp even today. Widespread missile attacks are being launched against areas around the camp. The missile attacks from the Elephant Pass area have intensified during the past few days.

Fourteen students from Jaffna University, who went to Vavuniya to prepare for their journey to Jaffna, were sent back by the military. The military, which questioned them at the Tandikulam checkpost, sent them back without stating a reason. The aforementioned students went to the United Nations office at Kilinochchi and reported this incident.

Meanwhile, the military, which continues to stay in Jaffna through an act of aggression, is reported to have been indulging in business activities as well. The troops use coercion to purchase commodities from the people in that area at rock bottom prices and transport them in their vehicles to other localities and sell them at higher prices. It is reported that the people who sell their goods to the troops at the prices they offer are in a fix because they cannot do anything to oppose them.

Thanks. The Tigers' aspirations: motherland of Tamil Eelam!

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